

M. McRae.
Federal. Alta.
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THE U.F.A.

OFFICIAL ORGAN

THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA
ALBERTA CO-OPERATIVE MARKETING POOLS

Vol. VI.

CALGARY, ALBERTA, APRIL 6, 1927

No. 11

First Session of the Sixth Alberta Legislative Assembly Prorogues

Staff Correspondence

Sixty Years of Canadian Tariff History

by D. F. KELLNER, M.P.

Standards of Life on the Farm

Farm Women's Section

Amendments to the Canada Grain Act

Alberta Wheat Pool Section

The U.F.W.A. and Junior Branch

Why Colonization Company Prefer Settlers on Land Whose Wants Are Few

And Why the Farmers and Farm Women Must Stand Together as a Class to Prevent Their Industry Sinking to Peasant Level.

Dear Farm Women:

Those of you who troubled to read my letter in the last U.F.A. will remember that I drew your attention to the address of Mr. John S. Smith at the Alberta Provincial Association of Co-operative Credit Societies Convention. Mr. Smith, you will remember, pointed out the need, in his estimation, of increased economy on the part of the farmers, and made many suggestions that did not tend to add to the comfort of life on the farm.

I am wondering if you saw the report of the Canada Colonization Company, a non-profit bearing company associated with the C.P.R. They presented a report at the convention of Dominion Mortgage and Investments Association, held in Edmonton some time last fall.

In case you have not, I shall give you a brief summary of part of it. The speaker, in discussing immigration, referred to the fact that they were mainly interested in colonization by groups whom they were obtaining from European countries, over 90 per cent of whom were Mennonites. These they preferred because (1) they were good farmers, (2) their indebtedness was carried co-operatively, (3) they lived simple lives and their wants were therefore few, with the result that they found it easier to meet their mortgage indebtedness.

MEANS SINKING TO PEASANT LEVEL

Now this does not fill me with so much resentment towards the Canada Colonization Company. They are probably good, shrewd business men and desire to be reckoned as such, and they are getting out the type most profitable for them. Nor am I belittling the Mennonites, for while I personally know little of them, I have heard much to their credit, of their industry, their integrity, their spirit of co-operation and other virtues. What does interest me, however, is the fact that this company is pleased to have on the land a people "whose wants are few" and can thus pay off their mortgage. A people on the land whose wants are few, who are content with a lower standard of living means more luxuries for those living indirectly off the farmer. It also means a greater cleavage between the farmers and other classes and it means that we shall eventually sink to a peasantry.

The people at whom my indignation is turned are those of our own class who, through selfishness, indifference, ignorance or prejudice, refuse to join our organization and help our class.

Two years ago in Edmonton I very much enjoyed hearing an address by Scott Nearing. He was referring to conditions in the United States when he spoke, of course, but he pointed out the deplorable lack of class consciousness or desire to help the class. He went on to

say that he supposed it was because a man saw the great possibilities ahead. He saw, for instance, that Calvin Coolidge became President of the United States and he thought, "Well, if Calvin Coolidge can become President, anyone can become President," and his efforts were then centred personally on himself or his son. He saw that Ford became a millionaire many times over and he said to himself, "Well if Ford can become a millionaire, anyone can become a millionaire," and personal ambition dominated him. And personal ambition, if dominating one, knows no bounds; it shoulders along, brushing aside or stepping on all in its way.

NECESSITY FOR PRIDE IN OUR CALLING

The necessity of a class consciousness and pride in our calling needs to be impressed on the farmers I feel. When we read of what others desire for farm life and the type of farmer wanted, we see how absolutely essential it is that we stand together as a class and try to put farming not on a better basis than any other calling, but on an equal footing. The highest form of patriotism, it seems to me, is to work that in our country we may all have an equal chance to develop, for no country, no civilization, achieves its best until that opportunity is given.

Yours sincerely,
"U.F.W.A."

Has your Local selected a delegate for the University Week for Farm Young People?

Junior Conference Fund, 1927

The first contributions to the 1927 Junior Conference Fund are listed below. This fund is for the purpose of defraying, in part, if not altogether, the railway expenses of delegates to the annual Junior Conference to be held in June.

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Carseland U.F.A. | \$5.00 |
| Buttes U.F.A. | 15.00 |
| Wilson Junior U.F.A. | 10.00 |
| Gleichen U.F.W.A. | 5.00 |
| | \$35.00 |

PRESIDENT WOOD ADDRESSES PILOT LIGHT JUNIORS

On March 26th the Pilot Light Junior District Association held its quarterly business meeting and Convention, with Chas. Hornstra in the chair.

President Wood gave a most inspiring talk on the U.F.A. and the Wheat Pool. "There is only one class of people in the world to blame for the condition of the farmers today, and that is the farmers themselves. We are just beginning to do a few things in a sensible, practicable way. The most outstanding example of the farmers doing things in a practicable way on the American continent, and I think I may say in the world, is the Canadian Wheat Pool. The great evil, the great danger that we have to meet is the incapacity of so many farmers for sustained effort in doing practical things," Mr. Wood said. He also impressed on his audience the fact that the older generation had done their part in bringing the farmers to a higher plane and that the task would soon fall on those who were juniors now.

Miss Hu.L, the Junior Secretary, was then introduced, after which Mr. Scholefield spoke on general U.F.A. topics. W. M. Davidson then gave a very pleasing and instructive talk on the Chinese question.

THE PURPOSE OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED IN ORGANIZATION BULLETINS

WHY INFORMATION IS OMITTED

There seems to be some misunderstanding on the part of some of our members in regards to the questions that were attached to the bulletin on Banking and Credit which was issued by the Organization Committee in the March 2nd issue of *The U.F.A.*

The object of these bulletins is to provide material for discussion at the meetings of the Locals, and the information in regards to the questions asked has been omitted on purpose. The subject of Banking and Credit has been discussed in our Association for several years and we believe that there are a good many members who have considerable information on this subject and who would be in a position to discuss same at the meetings of their Local. If you have not the answers to these questions available, and are interested in this subject, you should appoint certain members of your Local to delve into the subject. Central Office has books dealing with it that can be purchased at a reasonable price.

DO NOT WRITE TO CENTRAL and ask for the answers as they will not be furnished. Get informed on the subject and be in a position to discuss same. The Organization Committee will publish an article later on that will deal with the answers, but not until we have received the answers of our Locals.

The above will apply to all bulletins that are issued with questions attached.

STEPHEN LUNN,
Secretary Organization Committee.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

One Year.....\$2.00
Single Copies.....10 cents

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Change of Address—When ordering a change of address, the former as well as the present address should be given; otherwise the alteration cannot be made.

CIRCULATION

Net paid circulation, issue of March 30,
1927.....42,809



Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by

THE UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA

Lougheed Building
CALGARY - ALBERTA

Official Organ of

THE ALBERTA WHEAT POOL
THE ALBERTA LIVESTOCK POOL
THE ALBERTA DAIRY POOL
THE ALBERTA EGG AND POULTRY POOL

Editor

W. NORMAN SMITH

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No. 11

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EDITORIAL

TOP

MEMBERS WHO KEPT THEIR ELECTION
PLEDGES

(Canadian Forum, Toronto)

"In our new Parliament the various groups that claim to represent the farmer's interests include the Liberals, the Liberal-Progressives, and the Progressive, U.F.A., and Labor members, making a total of 150 odd out of the 245 elected representatives. When the budget was brought down and was found to provide none of the tariff relief for the farmer that was promised him in the election speeches of these 150 members, Mr. Coote brought in an amendment, the gist of it being "that this House regrets that the budget . . . contains no effective provision for the reduction in the high cost of living in so far as such is due to the protective tariff." Everyone knew that Mr. Coote's amendment had not one chance in a thousand of getting through the House; but the vote on it effectively demonstrated who are the true representatives of the farmer's interests, and we take pleasure in recording the names of the 21 members who stood by their election pledges: Messrs. Adshead, Bird, Campbell, Carmichael, Coote, Evans, Fansher (Last Mountain), Fansher (Lambton East), Gardiner, Garland (Bow River), Heaps, Irvine, Jelliff, Kellner, Kennedy, Lucas, Luchkovich, (Miss) Macphail, Speakman, Spencer, and Woodsworth. The Liberals and Liberal-Progressives joined with the Conservatives in voting against the amendment *en bloc*."

A GOOD SESSION

The Alberta Government has come through its first session since receiving a new mandate from the people with added prestige. The session was not a spectacular one, but much solid work was completed.

In respect to none of its administrative policies did the Government receive even serious criticism. The much herald-

ed attack upon its Northern Railway policy proved a very tame affair. The budget debate elicited no important criticism from the new party leaders, who, faced with the Government's record of economy and careful financing, found their campaign speeches of last summer entirely inappropriate for an Assembly in which criticism must be supported by facts.

The tribute paid to the Government by one of the Conservative members whose experience of public finance added weight to his opinion, was an example of fair-mindedness and the desire to avoid mere partizanship in debate which revealed the fact that not all the members of the Assembly are dominated by the party spirit.

With some of the important legislation of the session we will deal in later issues.

* * *

Although Mr. McGillivray expressed regret for flagrant breaches of parliamentary decorum in the early part of the session, he failed on several later occasions to maintain the standard of dignity in debate which some of his colleagues maintained without effort.

* * *

THE CRISIS IN CHINA

One or two of our Western dailies are following an obscurantist policy in their discussion of the momentous events in China. Fortunately, in Alberta at least, professional and business men in increasing numbers are turning to authoritative sources for information upon the history and progress of the Nationalist movement, which gives the only apparent hope of the transformation and gradual elevation of a nation of 400,000,000 people.

Some of the city service clubs in the Province are inviting speakers who have intimate knowledge of Chinese affairs to address them. This is all to the good. There is a growing belief that though Chinese Nationalism may make grave errors, its present aims are legitimate, and must be recognised as such. We must be sure that if, in the future, the Nationalists take unwise courses, we shall at least be free of responsibility for driving them into such courses.

Some of our daily papers are at last beginning to reveal the fact that British public opinion (at least as yet) is largely opposed to any action being taken which might involve Britain in open war in China. It is realized that the problem with which Western statesmen are confronted are difficult and delicate, and no sane man seeks to minimize them. But it is also realized, by the Foreign Office as well as by scores of responsible public men, that in the long run, force in China must fail; that, however grave, and apparently menacing, the present situation, however baffling may be the problem of ensuring the safety of the foreigners who have not yet been evacuated, sooner or later, and sooner rather than later, the Chinese must be given the opportunity to work out their own destiny in their own way.

* * *

During the session of the Legislature it has been necessary to curtail seriously the space devoted to news of the organization and special departments, and we regret that many valuable letters and information from Locals have necessarily been held over. Some of these items are now out of date, but as far as possible the remainder will be used in future issues.

Week of Intensive Activity Brings to Close First Session of Sixth Legislature of the Province of Alberta

Total of 82 Bills Receive Royal Assent at End of Session Lasting Seven Weeks and Two Days—Discussions On Forthcoming Provincial Conference, Cadet Training and Workmen's Compensation Feature Debates of Concluding Week

Staff Correspondence

Indemnity Divided Between Leaders of Groups in Assembly

Group Leaders Receive \$800 Each, In Place of \$2,500 Formerly Paid To Opposition Leader

MONDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 28.—Hopes of getting back to the land by April 1st were dissipated today, when one measure on the agenda for second reading ran on into hours of the time of the Assembly. This was the bill to amend the Public Utilities Act, introduced by D. M. Duggan, Edmonton, and spoken to at length during last Friday by the proposer, C. L. Gibbs, and the Attorney General, the debate having been adjourned by Fred White, Calgary. No agreement was arrived at by six o'clock on Monday and the debate was adjourned by John Irwin, Calgary.

DIVIDE INDEMNITY BETWEEN GROUPS

A resolution to do away with the present arrangement whereby a sessional amount was voted the leader of the opposition, and to substitute in its place an arrangement whereby leaders of the different groups have this sessional amount (\$2,400) shared equally between them, was introduced by the Premier and carried unanimously. The amount will be divided between the Liberal, Labor and Conservative groups.

A resolution respecting an act for the compromise of seed grain and relief indebtedness and the consolidation of arrears of taxes was introduced by R. G. Reid, and the bill afterwards brought in and read a first time.

A Bill Governing Domestic Relations was read a second time without discussion, Mrs. Parby explaining the provisions contained therein. One dealing with succession duties bringing this Province into line in some respect with other Provinces was also given second reading.

The Co-operative Credits Bill and the Highways (Vehicles) Bill were dealt with in committee of the whole.

WORK OF THE EVENING SESSION

At the evening session estimates covering the Attorney-General's Department and the Executive Council were gone over. Mr. Lymburn assured the Assembly he would look into certain matters raised, dealing with questions arising out of the estimates. J. T. Shaw thought sheriff's fees too high. Alderman Parkyn wondered why certain clerks in the different lands titles offices were shown to be receiving the sum of only \$950.00

The first session of the Sixth Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta was prorogued by Lieutenant-Governor Egbert at 6:45 p.m. on Saturday, April 2nd, after His Honor had given assent to the total of 82 bills passed by the Assembly during the session, which lasted exactly seven weeks and two days.

A number of important articles, reviewing the work of the session, both in the Assembly and in the Committee on Agriculture, will be contributed to our columns during the next few weeks by J. P. Watson, Staff Correspondent of *The U.F.A.* in the Press Gallery at Edmonton.

and \$800.00 annually, asking if this was considered to be a living wage.

In regard to the question as to what action was being taken in conjunction with the Dominion Bankruptcy Act amendments, the Premier advised Mr. Shaw to see the director (Mr. McIlmoyle). Bankruptcy was only resorted to in the very last instance by the board, many farmers having had their debts compromised and had been enabled to carry on.

In connection with estimates for liquor control, the Premier said that no men of disreputable character were employed to his knowledge in the liquor enforcement squad. He explained why it was advisable to keep this work separate from the regular police, and gave reasons why it was carried out as cheaply as it would be if it were in the control of the Police Department.

Although Lucien Boudreau was not present, his shadow haunted the Assembly as a lengthy argument arose between the Attorney General and the Liberal leader as to what evidence was given in the public accounts committee on this question. The whole question being sub-judice at this time it is not debatable.

DUTIES OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONER

What are the duties of the Civil Service Commissioner? was the subject of a number of questions by Mr. Shaw. The latter has a peculiar habit of asking a question over and over again, not seemingly realizing that the answer has been given. This time the Premier had to go over the ground three times before the member from Bow Valley got the savvy. It was explained in the clearest of language what this official's duties were, how a co-ordinating influence was necessary between the staffs of the departments scattered all over the Province, how appointments and promotions were dealt

with, how councils between the executive and representatives of the staff were held from time to time, and a lot of other things quite apparent to the majority of the Assembly.—Yes, returned men were given preference, other things being equal, and sometimes when not equal. Amputation cases had received special consideration, and the proportion of native sons employed was something like 800 out of 2000.

Asked as to what co-operation there was between the Dominion fuel board and that of the fuel investigators of the Province, the Premier said that he regretted very much to have to say that the coal industry of the Province had suffered serious injury at the hands of the Dominion Board on account of the report which they had circulated that Alberta coal was not suitable for coking purposes. It had been necessary to overcome that handicap, but, thanks to the work of the Alberta investigators, it was being done. P. M. Christophers, who is always on his toes when coal is being discussed, asked the Premier under what Government briquetting was first carried out at Bienfait, Saskatchewan, but the Premier was not aware at the moment.

The question of taking the mineral rights case to the Privy Council was discussed, the Premier pointing out that the Privy Council had nothing to do with the annulment of the mineral rights tax. The Dominion Government had disallowed the act, but the Province was considering the imposition of some tax equivalent to the mineral rights tax so as to bring the properties into paying their share of the Province's burden. It might be necessary to impose a tax in the form of an increment levy, but in any case something would be done at no distant date.

WHO WON THE GAS RATE WAR?

The Public Utilities Amendment Bill resolved itself into a battle between Edmonton members as to who won the gas rate war. The whole situation was canvassed from A to Z. The Attorney General, Mr. Brownlee, and Fred White opposed the bill, but debate was adjourned to see if compromise could not be effected. Messrs. Duggan, the mover, A. A. McGillivray, and L. A. Giroux, the latter getting quite eloquent, spoke in favor. Apart from the Edmonton debate, the principle of the bill hinged on the referring of questions of fact to the Executive Council, and of questions of law to the Supreme Court, in the event of appeal from the decisions of the Public Utilities Board.

The layman was confused by the verbal battle between the lawyers as to when is a question of fact a question of law? The answer: "It must be when it is," cleared the air, and made way for

the plain statement of Mr. Brownlee that the initial purpose of the creation of a utilities board was to place certain matters beyond the reach of political strife, vested in an independent body, and chosen because of certain qualifications. To revert to the saddling of the Executive Council with appeals was defeating the object aimed at, and the Supreme Court appeal would lead to repeated and costly litigation. The amendment of the Board itself was to be preferred. The Government was not averse to some modified right of appeal in questions of law, and advised the holding over until the question could be compromised. John Irwin, Calgary, adjourned the debate.

Old and New Members Give Credit for the Improved Accounts

McGillivray Resolution, Intended as Mild
Censure, Calls Forth Tribute
From Labor and Liberals

TUESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 29.—Two resolutions by A. A. McGillivray featured the afternoon sitting of the Legislative Assembly today. The first, asking the preparation before next session of a complete revision and codification of the law of the Province relating to municipal affairs, to be submitted at that time in the form of a Government bill, was voted down by 26 to 4, a large number of members being absent or not voting.

The second asked the Assembly to express the opinion that:

"the Government should hereafter disclose in the public accounts of the Province at the time the same are laid upon the table of this House, in the case of each trading activity of the Province including the railways and telephones owned and operated by the Province, a balance sheet setting forth assets and liabilities together with full details of all capital expenditures during the year; also a revenue and expenditure account for the year setting forth the full earnings and the amounts spent on operation, maintenance and administration or otherwise, with the proper subdivisions of the same clearly defined."

STING WAS IN THE TALE

This resolution was apparently quite innocent in itself, but the Government and several other speakers seemed to think that the sting was in the tale which the mover told when introducing it.

Mr. McGillivray accused the Government of having inserted leaves in the public accounts between a certain time when the leader had interviewed the auditor with regard to some matters, and another later time when he spoke on the question in the Assembly. He said all the pages up to 128 had been numbered by machine, while page 128, 1-2 was numbered in ink. The index did not suit the leader either. He objected very much to the bad policy of slipping in leaves or taking leaves out. It was not dishonest or anything like that, you know, but it was wrong.

The leader went into lengthy detail on what the public accounts contained. Expenditures of money were shown under the heads, Roads, Equipment, Operation and Maintenance. "Are the words 'Roads,

Equipment, Maintenance and Operation' to be all with which to account to the people or the Province for the expenditure of nearly two millions of dollars of their money?" he asked. "Any large corporation directors who had the temerity to offer to their shareholders such a statement as that would not expect to retain their positions overnight."

The resolution, said Mr. McGillivray, could not be defeated on the ground of the heavy cost entailed, as the leader had taken the precaution to interview a competent Chartered Accountant before coming in, and the latter had pointed out that if the books were being kept as they should be it would be merely a matter of a few hours' work to assemble the information asked for. Toward the conclusion of his speech Mr. McGillivray drew attention to the fact that the resolution did not deal with the past, but provided for the years that lay before, and if the Legislature voted it down, as he expected them to do, it would mean that they were putting the full mark of their approval on the policy of "non-disclosure" adopted by the Government.

WILL ACCEPT RESOLUTION IF IN GOOD FAITH

R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer, said the Government had made it a policy to accept suggestions or advice offered in good faith from members opposite. They refused to accept such as were offered in such a way as to convey a mild degree of censure on the Government. The words of the leader in presenting the resolution had dispelled any lingering doubt as to the intent of the motion.

The Government had never pretended that the public accounts were perfect, or that they contained all the information which could be placed in them. The only fair way to judge was to compare the accounts of today with those of years ago, or even with those of other Provinces to date.

IMPROVED BEYOND RECOGNITION

As to whether they were worse or better than those of former days, the Minister contended that they had improved beyond all recognition.

These accounts had been referred to publicly by a former leader of the Conservative party in this Province, now the financial critic of the House of Commons, as the most admirable set of public accounts of any Government in Canada.

In 1921 there were thirteen statements, not one of which was either a balance sheet or a profit and loss account in that sense of the word. Today there were ninety-six statements, each in the form referred to.

"I submit that we have shown tremendous progress and that we will continue to show progress," went on the Minister, "but it is obviously unfair both to the Government and the people responsible for the accounts to imply censure when there should be commendation."

It would involve expense, not to say waste of effort, to include in the public accounts the most meticulous detail of all transactions. Many items would total 50 cents or \$1.00 and the books were available always to those wishing information as to the details. He resented the censure implied, and moved that the motion be amended by striking out all the words after the word "should" in the second line and substituting the following:

"continue its efforts to improve the public accounts so as to disclose as

full information as possible with reference to the various departments and trading activities of the Province;

And that in addition to the balance sheet and profit and loss statements now included with respect to each trading activity, the Government should, having regard to the increased time for preparation afforded by the change in the fiscal year, include statements showing a proper analysis of all capital expenditures under proper headings."

GIROUX EXPRESSES SATISFACTION WITH IMPROVEMENT MADE

L. A. Giroux, Grouard, (Liberal), was prepared to give due credit to the Government for the improvement in the rendering of the accounts. Last year's had included an appendix which he had found very valuable at country points when questioned as to the monies expended on roads and other forms of governmental activities. On being assured that there would be a second part this year also, Mr. Giroux expressed satisfaction with the accounts, and hoped they would continue to progress.

Premier Brownlee also took a hand in the discussion. He repeated the statement that the railways had been and were separate entities, and whether they liked it or not were operated under the Railway Act of Canada and subject to the Board of Railway Commissioners, before whom their books were placed at stated times. The truth had been stated already that this was responsible for the delay with regard to the railway accounts.

LEFT ENTIRELY TO AUDITOR

The Premier went on to discuss his relationship with the Provincial Auditor. They had had lots of conferences, but the Premier had left the working out of the accounts entirely in the auditor's hands. The two firms of accountants engaged in 1921 had recommended a certain course of improvement, and the recommendations had formed the basis of improvement from year to year. The Premier was pleased indeed that out of all the matter contained in the accounts only this one thing had been complained of, after what he was sure had been a most searching inquiry. The accounts had never been intended to be a sole and complete accounting.

Mr. Brownlee went over all the improvements which had been introduced by the Government, and stated that he had gathered from the Conservative leader's words what he had only dimly realised from the resolution, that it was the intention to censure the Government.

D. C. Breton, Leduc, (U.F.A.), explained how he had secured information of the nature referred to, at the auditor's office, while George Webster, Calgary, (Liberal), said the accounts should be in such form as could be understood by the man in the street. A. M. Matheson, Vegreville (U.F.A.), had sympathy for the spirit of the resolution and at the same time congratulated the Government for the progress made. He was highly pleased at the growth of the new-born desire for information among certain sections of the Assembly, and trusted that it would continue.

RESENTS CONSERVATIVE LEADER'S METHODS

C. L. Gibbs, Edmonton, (Labor), as a new member, felt that the spirit of the resolution was all right, but not being able to judge from past experience, he

was compelled to judge by the tone of the debate. He resented the Conservative Leader's method, when with clarity and vigor he plainly censured the Government. Mr. Gibbs said he had been greatly influenced by what had been said by the Provincial Treasurer and Mr. Giroux, one of the old members, and he felt it his duty to support the amendment rather than the resolution.

Ald. R. H. Parkyn, Calgary, (Labor) expressed pleasure at what he called the conversion of another Calgary member to the principle of disclosure of accounts in public, as he remembered having been told often to go round to the mayor's office. It must be the Edmonton atmosphere, commented the Labor member.

SHAW GIVES CREDIT TO GOVERNMENT

J. T. Shaw, Bow Valley, (Liberal), saw no difference between the resolution and the amendment, other than that the one implied censure and the other asked for a pat on the back. It was immaterial which one carried, although he admitted the Government deserved credit for improving the accounts.

The vote being taken, on the amendment, it was carried without division.

A. A. McGillivray, in closing the debate, dealt with the arguments of opponents of his resolution. He did not approve of the same individual keeping the books and at the same time having to affix his signature as to the correctness of the audit. He waxed dramatic as usual when he declared: "Let the government get all the credit and glorification possible; still the fact remains that nearly four million dollars are accounted for by only four words." This resolution would be taken, he contended, dressed up in other language, and then the members opposite would say, "Lo, and behold! It is a government measure."

On the speaker asking those in favor of the amended resolution to say "Aye," Mr. McGillivray's voice rose above everyone with a stentorian "AYE." Laughter having arisen from the Treasury benches, the Speaker called for the Noes, and the farmers just to the right of the Speaker shouted "No." It was a moment of confusion, but was righted on the standing vote being called. On division, the amended (Government) resolution carried by 47 to 4, all Conservatives voting against.

The Assembly then took up the estimates. The coal industry will get a boost this year if nothing unforeseen happens, and a new chief inspector of mines will be appointed; the present chief, John T. Stirling, will devote his entire time to the work on the Compensation Board. This information was given during consideration of the mines

branch estimates. More rigid enforcement of the Mines Act, and the transfer of the fuel engineer's office from Manitoba to B.C. was intended.

Battle in Assembly on Legal Principle re Negligence Bill

Town and Village Acts Amended—Tax Arrears No Disqualification For Office

WEDNESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 30.—Debate on a bill to apportion damages according to degree of negligence on the part of claimants in an action for damages, was the subject of a legal battle in the Assembly today. The Premier, A. A. McGillivray, L. A. Giroux, and the Attorney General took part in the melee, the only layman to participate being the leader of the Labor group. The Premier stated that as objection had developed to the bill since going before the legal bills committee, the Government, although in favor of the measure, would not press for its acceptance this year.

A. A. McGillivray, Calgary, opposed the bill as embodying a new principle. The laws dealing with negligence on the statute books of Great Britain and Canada had stood the test of time, but apart from arguments of a technical nature he contended that the bill was entirely impractical. He claimed that in the case of a member of the railway running trades, for example, who had been injured in the course of his duty, through negligence of the company, and who retained his common law rights, in applying for damages would have to convince the jury of the negligence of the company; at the same time the company might also prove a measure of negligence on the part of the employee, and under the new act the employee would thus be deprived of his damages. It was a good measure from the standpoint of the corporation.

PREMIER BELIEVES OF ADVANTAGE TO EMPLOYEES

The Premier, as a lawyer, disagreed with the member from Calgary. The leader's argument had been based on the assumption that if both sides proved negligence the worker would be deprived of his compensation. If the matter was judged on the basis of the result of trials for damages in the past it would be seen that many workmen who had lost out in the matter of damages would if this act had been in force have received an amount commensurate with the degree of liability. Under the present act if a company proves that a worker was guilty of contributory negligence the latter receives no damages. Under the proposed act he would only lose an amount consistent with the degree of negligence proved. Far from this measure being a corporation measure it gave protection to employees. The legal fraternity had expressed approval of the bill, which was not new but was in operation in France, several Provinces, and on the high seas. He would rather wait one more year for its submission to bodies interested.

Fred White, Calgary (Labor) thought it better that some delay should be made in order to bring the bill to the attention of interested parties. L. A. Giroux, Grouard, (Liberal), supported the measure as one which would distinguish between contributory negligence and primary

negligence. The ordinary individual did not have much chance in an action for damages against the large corporation. The bill was worth trying out.

After the Attorney-General had taken a hand in the debate the bill was laid over by the committee rising on the motion of the Premier.

Second reading was given bills dealing with the levying of a five per cent tax on pari-mutuels and the collection of same; to amend the Factories Act so as to bring well-drilling rigs within its scope; and a bill to amend the Mines' Act, argument on which was reserved for the committee stage.

TAX ARREARS WILL NOT DISQUALIFY

The Towns and Village Acts were considered in committee, amendments annulling the clauses surrounding the election and qualification of mayor and councillors. The amendments provided that arrears of taxes or other liens, etc., should not disqualify candidature, as was proposed in the bill.

During the discussion of the Education Department estimates, a whole lot of questions were asked. Col. Weaver, Edmonton, (Conservative) wanted to know why there was such a disparity in the grants given to the Provincial School of Technology at Calgary and those given the school board at Edmonton for technical education. The Minister replied that all grants were given on a statutory basis. Before the Department received grants from the Dominion these had to be earned, and the Department in turn paid grants amounting to fifty per cent. of the teacher's salary, up to a maximum of \$600 per teacher. Edmonton received the maximum, and but for the fact that the Province carried on the work of the Technical Institute there would be no Dominion subvention to divide. There had been expansion of the work at Calgary, night schools, commercial, vocational and others which had necessitated an increase in expenditure.

SOME FIGURES ON SCHOOL INSPECTIONS

J. T. Shaw, Bow Valley, (Liberal leader) asked how the number of school inspections last year compared with those prior to the decrease in the number of inspectors. The Minister pointed out that in 1925, 154 schools had not received any inspection; in 1926, 221; in 1921, 162; and in 1920, 414. In answer to the further query as to how the claim was based which averred that a fewer number of inspectors had accomplished a larger number of inspections than had a larger number of inspectors, the Minister stated that he had not made any claim in that regard. It was quite true that there had been a larger number of inspections, but it had to be remembered that inspection did not cover the entire work of an inspector, and in endeavoring to cover the field at least once some other service had to suffer. The figures were that in 1920, 36 inspectors had made 4,098 inspections, while in 1925, 25 inspectors had made 5,536. If it were possible the Minister would like to see some competent man attend each rural school, especially where there were weaker teachers, and spend one whole day at least four times a year. That, however, was out of the question, as it would cost half a million dollars.

CITIES RECEIVE NO MORE THAN FORMERLY

The Liberal leader was not satisfied. He asked if it were not a fact that the total number of inspections had been

COMMITTEE TO REVISE RULES OF ALBERTA ASSEMBLY

A Committee appointed by Mr. Speaker to investigate the House rules and present recommendations for the revision of same, was selected last week. The names as announced by Mr. Speaker are: R. G. Reid (convener); O. L. McPherson, Minister of Public Works; Deputy Speaker M. C. McKeen; C. S. Pingle, Liberal; C. L. Gibbs, Labor; Laudas Joly, U.F.A.; A. A. McGillivray, Conservative.

boosted by the method of withdrawing inspectors from rural parts in winter and placing them on work in the cities, thus raising the total. The Minister stated that the cities received no more than formerly. Prior to the change Calgary and Edmonton had two permanent inspectors, while Lethbridge had one. These men confined their efforts during the entire year to the work of inspecting city schools. At the time of the change these inspectors were withdrawn, and the work of inspection was accomplished by the use of inspectors from rural inspectorates in the slack time. This had caused no increased number of inspections, but merely an adjustment of the system. Donald Cameron, Innisfail, (U.F.A.) and G. W. Smith, Red Deer, (U.F.A.), testified to the good work done by inspectors in their respective districts, and the items covering this work were approved.

Mr. Shaw wondered if two branches, one dealing with attendance and operation, and the other with debentures and statistics, could not be consolidated. The reply was no, and the duties of each were detailed. The Minister detailed the number of deaf and blind children being educated by the Province at schools in Manitoba, Montreal and Point Grey. Subnormal children were provided for by grant, the segregation or otherwise being left to the discretion of the school boards. There were two teachers provided at Calgary and Edmonton, and one at Lethbridge, 50 per cent of the salary being paid by the Province.

A. M. Matheson, Vegreville, (U.F.A.) dealing with the estimates for miscellaneous, asked the Minister if a grant of \$25 could be obtained by the Vegreville district to help inaugurate a musical festival. The Minister answered that the matter would be referred to the Executive Council.

Government Favors Shaw Resolution on Coming Conference

Assembly Discusses Proposed Subjects
For Discussion at Provincial Conference — House Rules
Resolution Amended

THURSDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 31.—Three resolutions emanating from the benches to the left of the Speaker featured the sittings of the House today. In the endeavor to clean up the business, the estimates were taken up first, and finally passed, the necessary supply bill being introduced at the close.

A. A. McGillivray, Calgary, (Conservative), fathered the first resolution, dealing with the amending of the statute law with regard to house rules. It comprised five sections, ranging from the changing of the hours of sittings to the length of time accorded speakers other than leaders. The Government saw fit to amend this resolution by referring the matter to a Speaker's Committee to investigate, prepare a report, and present same to the Assembly next session. The amendment carried 48 to 4, Matheson and Parkyn not voting.

The second, which came up at the evening session, was one sponsored by Joseph T. Shaw, Bow Valley, (Liberal), comprising also some six sections, covering suggested subjects for presentation

to the forecast conference of Dominion and Provincial Governments. Fred J. White, Calgary, (Labor), suggested several more, accepted after modification by the Premier, but opposed by A. A. McGillivray, who adjourned the debate to obtain time. Adjournment was not granted without division, the vote being 24 to 14 in White's favor.

The third resolution dealt with the equalization of the hours of government employees, it being pointed out that some engineers at certain institutions worked seven days a week for the same salary as some others who only worked six. The Government, through the Minister of Public Works, explained that effort had been made and would continue to be made as far as possible to remedy all inequalities, and the proposer of the resolution, Andrew Smeaton, Lethbridge, (Labor), feeling that its purpose had been achieved, withdrew the resolution.

NO PICAYUNE MATTERS, THESE

The first resolution dealt with no picayune matters, being principally a plea for the eight hour day (or less) for the weary willies who grind out the reports for the daily press. That, of course, was not in the resolution, it was merely a side issue, injected to break the iron clad breasts of the occupants of the Treasury benches. The Premier remarked later on in the debate, that the member from Calgary had had no reason to complain about not finding his way into the daily press. The resolution was as follows:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this House, with a view to expediting the business of this House and with a view to allowing ample opportunity for a careful consideration of the legislation coming before this House, the Government should introduce all necessary amendments to the statute law of the Province and the rules of this House so as to provide:

1. That the sittings of this House shall commence at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and, subject to the unanimous consent of the Members present, shall terminate at 6 o'clock in the afternoon, during the first four weeks of any Session.
2. That all Government Bills shall be printed and distributed amongst the members of this House at least ten days before the commencement of any Session thereof, reserving to the Government the right to introduce Bills in the course of the session that have not been so distributed because of inadvertence, mistake or unforeseen circumstances.
3. That the Public Accounts of the Province be prepared and the Consolidated Balance Sheet and Abstract of the Public Accounts be printed and distributed amongst the Members of this House at least ten days before the commencement of any Session of this House.
4. That all annual reports of the departments of Government be prepared and two or more typewritten or printed copies thereof be furnished to the respective leaders of all parties or groups in this House at least ten days before the commencement of any session of this House.
5. That the address of any member other than the Premier, a leader of any opposition party or group, and a Minister introducing a Bill, shall be limited to a period of time not exceeding forty minutes in any particular debate.

TO EXPEDITE BUSINESS OF ASSEMBLY

Leader McGillivray explained the resolution. It was intended to expedite the business of the Assembly and to provide the members ample time to review legislation. The Assembly should convene before three and hold no evening sittings until the fifth week of the session. Members worked in committee from ten until lunch, he said; then from that time until three there was a period when no con-

nected matter was before the members; then at six they went to their several places of abode, returning at eight and remaining in session till ten or later. 'Twas too much, much too much. It wore one out, you might say, so that one could not give the attention to legislation that one ought to, in view of the fact that one represented 600,000 people or a fraction thereof as the case may be. The thought of the 600,000 people made the leader deplore the fact that there was no official record, no Hansard, no Canadian Press, no way of informing the people who had sent the legislators there as to what they were saying and doing, and the poor pressmen were overworked night and day trying to get the news across. This Legislature was in just the same position as the House of Commons in 1884.

Discussing the clauses demanding the printing of all Government bills and their circulation among the members ten days clear before the opening day, Mr. McGillivray said, not one member that day could recite even the names of one half of the 77 Government bills, not to speak of their subject matter. The consolidated balance sheet and abstract of the public accounts should also be treated similarly, and in view of the change of the fiscal year there could be no reason why this could not be done.

The leader made some caustic remarks about the Legislature having to give ill digested thought to the bills which were laid on their desks from day to day like snowstorms, and this meant, he said, that the Legislature had resolved itself into a government by commission, the seven occupants of the front benches being the commission.

SHAW AGAINST FAVORS FOR LEADERS

Joseph T. Shaw, Bow Valley, agreed in some respects with the resolution, but disagreed with others. The matter of printing and circulating bills, public account abstracts, and reports, if at all possible, would be very commendable, although he saw no reason why the leaders should be specially favored. He disagreed with regard to the sittings of the Assembly. The proposed change of the hour of assembly to two o'clock had been tried out in the Dominion House and had to be discontinued. He did not agree with regard to discontinuing the evening sessions either. Four nights a week might perhaps be a little heavy, but three would not be out of place. All bills, he thought, should be down before the evening sittings started. He did not favor a rush at the end of session.

Neither did the member for Bow Valley agree that the time limit should be imposed on private members. Few of these gentlemen exceeded the proposed time limit, and he saw no reason, if it should be necessary, why a private member should not have the same right as any leader. The Dominion House had 245 members, and the Legislature only 60, so the case was not analogous. The whole question, he contended, should be placed in the hands of a committee who should consider the question and report at the earliest convenient period.

Fred White said that Labor's views coincided with those of the Liberal leader. He preferred the method suggested, a committee to revise the rules generally. It was time in any case for a general overhaul of the rules.

BROWNLEE ON DANGERS OF HARD AND FAST RULE

J. E. Brownlee, Premier, said there was much that was agreeable to him in the

resolution. He was anxious that business be expedited, and hoped that the Government had not given the impression during the past five years that they were self-sufficient or had lost touch with the desires of members. He went over the suggestions clause by clause. He could not consent to delaying evening sessions until four weeks had gone. There was danger if that were done that afternoon filibusters might delay business unduly for those four weeks. He did not charge that present occupants of the opposing benches would do that, but laying down a hard and fast rule would invite that course. He regretted very much if members had suffered inconvenience on account of the strenuous endeavor to push the business, but he gave good reason for so doing. The change of the year would help out, as the fact that the budget could never be brought down before March had meant the calling of the Assembly in February, and the consequent desire to get back to the farm on the part of those whose occupation lay in that direction was a factor. Beginning next year they might meet in December, and the session ought in any case to finish in eight weeks.

Mr. Brownlee analysed the growth of the present system to show that what was done had been done in response to long experience. The fact that Legislatures and Parliaments met at three was not an accident, but the result of experience. The occupants of the Treasury benches had to carry on the affairs of their Departments just as was done when the House was not in session; they had to attend committees, they had to meet delegations, they had to prepare legislation, and a hundred and one things before the Assembly met at three. Sometimes they had to go without lunch. Perhaps they had pressed the members too hard this year, Mr. Brownlee said, but he counselled them to think of how things were done at Ottawa, when members sat until the early hours of the morning, not for a matter of three or four weeks but for four or five months at a stretch. To put it plainly, he did not believe that members were really overworked.

GREAT IMPROVEMENT OVER OLD CONDITIONS

With regard to bills coming in fast, and being passed without due consideration, the Government had improved the old conditions when bills did not begin to come down until after the speech from the throne had ended. Then they used to have the method known as the Statute Law Amendment Bill, when at the close of the session 40 or 50 bills were passed as one. That was a thing of the past. The submission of bills to the public in one instance prior to the meeting of the Assembly had led to censure. The Government had strictly followed the rules that no reports or public documents would be circulated before they had become the property of the Assembly by having been laid on the table. The Premier stated that he had honestly endeavored to meet the wishes of the leader when he had requested that he be furnished with copies of the reports. He would like to meet the wishes of all with regard to the distribution of the Public Accounts, but he pointed out that Governments had erred greatly in spending public money in a too promiscuous distribution of documents of this nature. There had been good men on the opposition side of the Assembly during the last five years, men qualified to judge, and not once in that time had the Govern-

ment been charged with non-disclosure of any items of public expenditures.

Under the statutes these documents had to be laid on the table so many days after the opening of the session. This had been scrupulously adhered to. With regard to the limitation of time for speeches, this, even if put into effect, would not affect more than four or five men, outside the leaders, as very few exceeded forty minutes at any time. He instanced the valuable speech of Mr. Duggan lately, asking if the members of the Assembly would like to have a speech of that nature curtailed, when its value was so immense?

PREMIER ACCEPTS SHAW'S SUGGESTION

The Premier mentioned that he had tried to meet the wishes of the leader and had interviewed him to induce him to put the suggestions in such form as the Government could accept, but without result. The Liberal leader's suggestion was, in his opinion, the better one, and had suggested itself to him as the proper course of action. He, therefore, moved the following amendment:

RESOLVED that the Motion be amended by striking out all the words after the word "that" in the first line and substituting the following:

"A Committee of the House consisting of seven (7) Members representative of all groups in the House be appointed by Mr. Speaker for the purpose of considering ways and means of facilitating the business of the House and for the purpose of revising the Rules of the House, and

Further, that such Committee be under the Chairmanship of Mr. Speaker and may be summoned from time to time during the interim following the present Session and report to the House as soon as possible after the opening of the next Session, and that any expense involved in connection with the work of the Committee shall be paid by the Province."

Gordon Forster, Hand Hills (U.F.A.) pointed out the impossibility of amending the entire rules of the Assembly by the passing of one resolution. It ought to be the considered work of a committee of the Legislature.

A. M. Matheson, Vegreville (U.F.A.), sympathized with the resolution, but if the interests of his constituents were at stake he was not going to be bound by any 40 minute limit which was not imposed on all alike. Too many bills had brought him to the point where he concentrated on those on which he happened to be interested, letting the others sail by. He was not going to vote either for or against.

MCGILLIVRAY'S IDEAS OF COURTESY

The amendment having been put and carried by the AYES, the Conservative chief wound up the debate, in the course of which he made a nasty reference to the interview between the Premier and himself. A slight altercation arose between the leader and the Premier because of the statement that the Conservative leader had been furnished with copies of the reports. The leader admitted that since the day when he brought up the matter in the Assembly copies had been furnished of those reports introduced since.

"I do not want these things as a matter of courtesy, but as a matter of right," he declaimed, tossing all courtesy to the winds. "When I came to this Assembly and found the honorable Premier posing as the personification of frankness and candor I confess I fell for it, but now I am a disillusioned and wiser man. No resolution proposed from this side of the House can get by unless meetings are

arranged in some lavatory or other secret place and the resolution dressed up in new guise so that it can be introduced as a Government conception."

On division the motion as amended carried by 48 to 4.

SHAW'S RESOLUTION RE PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

At the evening session, J. T. Shaw moved the following resolution:

Whereas, the Dominion Government has given notice of its intention to call, during this year, a conference representative of the Federal and Provincial Governments; and

Whereas, it is desirable that all questions outstanding should be carefully canvassed and considered and if possible a basis of agreement arranged at such a conference, subject, however, to ratification by the Parliament of Canada and the Legislatures of all the Provinces;

Now, therefore, this Assembly directs the Provincial Government to present before the conference for its consideration the following, among other problems:

1. The desirability of Canada securing the right to amend or revise her own constitution and the procedure necessary to secure such revision or amendment thereof, whether same be undertaken at the instance of the Federal Government or of any Provincial Government.

2. The necessity for sickness, invalid and unemployment insurance and the steps requisite to secure early and effective legislation in respect thereof.

3. The necessity for a re-allocation of the field of taxation as between the Federal and Provincial Governments and in addition thereto, an upward revision of the existing subsidy arrangements.

4. A thorough examination of those interests in which the Provincial and Federal Governments exercise concurrent jurisdiction, such as agriculture, policing, immigration, health, research activities, etc., with a view to a clearer definition of the primary responsibility therefor, and in any event to secure a more efficient co-ordination of activity and a more effective co-operation of effort therein.

5. That Senate reform be undertaken in a manner that will ensure that the Senate will more closely approximate to the wishes and desires of the framers of confederation in order that that body may become more democratic and more effectively reflect the public will.

6. That the attention of said conference be invited to the railway problems of Alberta, in order that appropriate relief may be secured.

The leader of the Liberals wished to change the preamble slightly so that it would read, "recommend to the Government the desirability of" instead of the words "directs the Government," thus giving more latitude for its interpretation. Mr. Shaw explained the resolution, stressing the urgency of the need for Canada being granted the right to amend her own constitution. The attitude of the British Government had always been that unless Canada came with practical unanimity no amendments would be agreed to. The suggested conference ought to be productive of at least a basis of agreement.

South Africa, Australia and other British Dominions had that right, and as Canada had been the first of the colonies to have a constitution there was no reason why she should not possess the same right as others.

SECOND CLAUSE OBVIOUSLY DESIRABLE

The desirability of the second clause was apparent to any person of humanitarian outlook, while the third was urgently necessary. Since the war the Dominion had invaded the field of direct taxation to the restriction of that field to the Provinces. Such taxes as income

(Continued on Page 15)

Both Parties Soft Pedal on the Tariff Issue

Debate on Budget in House of Commons Shows That There Is Now No Difference of Opinion Between the Liberals and the Conservatives—Sixty Years of Tariff History.

By DONALD F. KELLNER, M.P.

Sixty years ago Canada adopted what is known as the National Policy, providing for the collection of a customs tariff on her imports. Since then many a political battle has been fought, in which the tariff was the issue. It was the only issue that definitely divided the two parties, so that whenever an election was keenly contested, the discussion centred around the tariff. No Budget was ever debated in Ottawa without the tariff being the chief topic of discussion; the Liberals advocating a mixture of low tariff and free trade, and the Conservatives advocating adequate protection.

SIXTY YEARS OF TARIFF HISTORY

When one looks at the tariff that has been maintained by the various governments, it is puzzling to understand what all the controversy was about. Below is given the tariff in force at periods covering the life of Governments of different political shades, together with the amount of money actually collected.

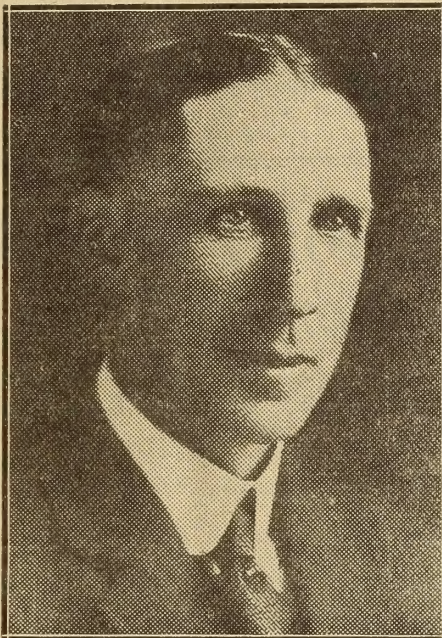
| | Dutiable Imports | Total Imports | | Total Collection |
|------|------------------|---------------|------|------------------|
| 1868 | 20.2 | 13.1 | 1870 | 37 million |
| 1880 | 26.1 | 20.2 | 1880 | 33 million |
| 1890 | 31.0 | 21.4 | 1890 | 43 million |
| 1896 | 30.0 | 19.2 | 1900 | 44 million |
| 1910 | 26.8 | 16.5 | 1910 | 95 million |
| 1921 | 20.6 | 14.1 | 1920 | 126 million |
| 1926 | 24.7 | 15.5 | 1926 | 163 million |

In other words the Conservatives, in 1868, started with a duty on dutiable imports of 20.2 per cent and on total imports of 13.1 per cent. On their defeat in 1896, it will be seen that the tariff had increased to 30.0 per cent on dutiable and to 19.2 per cent on total imports. Then the Liberals held office for fifteen years, and by 1910 the tariff stood at 26.8 on dutiable and 16.5 on total imports, which duty the high tariff Conservatives, by 1921, had reduced to 20.6 on dutiable and 14.1 on total imports. The following year the low tariff Liberals took office, and by 1926, the rate was increased to 24.7 on dutiable, and 15.5 on total. Figures are taken from the Annual Trade Report of Canada, and, of course, are Government figures.

If these figures bewilder your tariff opinions a little, a scrutiny of the debate on the Budget just passed will make you politically groggy altogether.

BACKGROUND OF THIS YEAR'S DEBATE

The background for this year's debate has been laid in past years, particularly since 1919, when the Liberal party held a national convention and adopted a National Policy re-affirming their stand in favor of lower tariffs than at that time prevailed. Add to this the declarations of several members of the Government in power since 1921, and the universal claim of the party of its firm conviction to the policy of low tariffs, and you have the conception of a party anxious and ready to reduce the tariff, just as fast as conditions would warrant, moving slowly



D. F. Kellner, M.P.

now and then perhaps, when met by exceptional circumstances, but pressing on and on to the goal of low tariff and free trade.

Then we had the Conservatives, maintaining that Canada, perhaps more than any other country, required adequate protection; that industry could only grow and expand if given the support of a Protective Tariff high enough to allow her to compete with the lower wages of Europe, and high enough to meet the competition of mass production from the United States.

BOTH PARTIES SOFT PEDAL

Then came this Budget debate, and both parties began to soft pedal. The Liberals began to argue that the tariff is now low enough, in fact some of the supporters of the Government definitely stated they did not believe in low tariffs. The Conservatives, not to be outdone, agreed that the tariff was high enough save on some few articles, and even hinted that if they were in power, it might be reduced. Taking it all in all, the arguments were tumultuous enough to give a tranquil public a bad case of sea sickness. The Government supporters argued that tariff adjustments should wait until the tariff commission had time to report, and these reports were duly considered.

It seems very apparent where that policy will lead. There have been some fifty-two applications for changes in the tariff, to the tariff board, and all save three are for increases. The textile manufacturers have just made an application for an increase, which shows the uneven pressure that can be exerted by

the various parties interested in an application of this kind. The manufacturers of textiles from every manufacturing point in Canada came to Ottawa, and brought with them a display of their wares. These were arranged in rooms of the second and third floor of the Chateau Hotel, and gave the appearance of a section of a departmental store.

The arguments in support of the application, no doubt were as voluminous and prepared with as great care as was their display. That is, representatives were there who were versed in all phases of the trade to supply data, and experienced pleaders were there to present the case. The application was in no way stultified for the want of money or organization.

NO SPOKESMEN FOR CONSUMERS' INTEREST

On the other hand, the thousands of consumers who are using these goods, and are vitally concerned about the price, have no organization for presenting their case, and no prospect of their representations being effectively submitted, so that if the Tariff Commission is going to decide the case on the evidence offered, it is practically a foregone conclusion what their recommendations will be.

Perhaps members of the House of Commons had different conceptions of what were to be the undertakings of the Tariff Commission. Personally, I was always suspicious of it functioning in the interest of the consumer, but the opinion I held as to what was to be the undertakings of that commission, such opinions based on statements made by the Government, were not in accord with what is now accepted as the function of the tariff commission. At the 1921 election both Liberals and Progressives were elected on a low tariff platform, and to these two groups were elected about 75 per cent of the members. The impression I held was that that election settled the controversy, and that the Government, regardless of the personal convictions of some of its adherents, was going to proceed to inaugurate a low tariff policy. Everyone knows that a sudden change in the tariff is apt to embarrass business, so we were to have the Commission for the purpose of determining how fast and how far the Government could lower the tariff, and at the same time, not unduly affect the stability of business.

NOW NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PARTIES

The debate on the Budget just closed would indicate that there is now no difference in the opinions of Liberals and Conservatives, and that their opinions are from now on to be more or less subservient to the findings of the Tariff Commission. The policy of low tariff is abandoned, and now the whole question is a matter of argument before the Commission, with forty-nine applications for increases and three for decreases to date.

Force is given the above contention by the statement by a former low tariff advocate, a man from the West, one

who, while in the Provincial Government of Saskatchewan, had a habit of moving low tariff resolutions, Hon. C. A. Dunning. Speaking on the Budget Debate, he said:

"We shall move forward cautiously, with aid of knowledge of the facts secured by the Tariff Advisory Board, towards the goal of making our tariff structure bear as lightly as possible on production, industry, and the people generally, having always in view the greater prosperity of all the legitimate industries in Canada."

Mr. Guthrie: "We are not high protectionists: we do not seek 'higher and higher and higher protection.' Nobody in the Conservative party seeks or desires any such thing—nobody suggests it. We ask for reasonable, adequate protection, bearing equally and fairly upon all and harshly upon none."

It will be noticed how closely the Liberal tariff policy, as enunciated by Mr. Dunning, and the Conservative policy, as laid down by Mr. Guthrie, resemble each other. But, before I close, I would like to call attention to the divergent views of some of the Ministers.

Chart and a Compass

On March 3, 1924, Mr. Mackenzie King said: "I said that the Liberal platform was a chart; that the compass would be the Government of the day, composed of men who were in a position to judge of the country's needs and situation, that they would be guided by the light of facts as to how far at any particular time it would be wise to go in carrying out the provisions as set forth in the platform."

Nothing Doing

Hon. Charles Stewart, April 14, 1924: "I trust it will be the death knell of protection."

Free Trade No. 1

Mr. Euler (now Minister of Customs) March 12, 1924: "While I believe in a tariff; while I believe in a tariff for revenue and a tariff that will maintain legitimate industry, I would not for a moment place any premium upon inefficiency on the part of the Canadian manufacturer."

Tut! Tut! Tariff Stability

Mr. Fielding, (then Minister of Finance) 1923: "Nevertheless it is desirable that something like an assurance of tariff stability should be given to business men."

Why the Claim for Favored Treatment in the Duncan Report Is Unconvincing

Any Just Grievances of Maritime Provinces Can Be Satisfactorily Remedied Only By National, Not By Sectional Adjustments—No Consideration Given in Report to Other Provinces.

By W. M. DAVIDSON

PART II

In my last contribution to *The U.F.A.* dealing with the recommendation of the Duncan report about the claims of the Maritime Provinces for special treatment, I analysed in some detail the suggestion that the Provinces should receive from the Federal Parliament increased subsidies at once.

The claim for favored treatment in the Duncan report is not convincing, and perhaps more serious than that, the plan is a wide departure from the basis of Confederation, which has been regarded as a treaty among self-governing colonies which cannot be changed materially, without the approval of all the Provinces. Not only has there been no such approval, but the recommendations were made without any consideration of the other Provinces.

EXCUSE NOT A VALID ONE

The excuse is now given that the recommendation about subsidies is merely for interim increases, which will be submitted later to a conference of the Provinces. That is not quite correct. The Duncan report recommends these increases as against the subsidies received by the other Provinces. It is not suggested that these increases should be made to the three Maritime Provinces because there should be increases to all of the Provinces, but that these increases should be made because the Maritime Provinces, for conditions which are set out, are deserving of more consideration as compared to the other Provinces.

If the Provinces do meet in conference to discuss subsidies, the Maritime Provinces may join in demands for general increases in subsidies, but in addition to the general increases, they have this additional vested claim, which they will insist upon because they have been recognized by Parliament—that is, if Parliament should adopt the plan.

Unjust as is the finding respecting sub-

sidies and threatening to the continued harmony of the Dominion, the suggestions respecting changed policy in administering the national railway seem in some respect even more dangerous.

WIDE DEPARTURE FROM PUBLIC OWNERSHIP PRINCIPLE

The commissioners urge, and Parliament seems determined to adopt, a blanket reduction on all rail rates on that part of the C.N.R., known as the Atlantic section—which the commissioners say should be extended to Levis—



W. M. Davidson

and also upon the Maritime section of the C.P.R., the reduction in revenue by these cuts, both on the C.N.R. and C.P.R., to be charged to the people of Canada.

This is an important recommendation, because it is a wide departure from the general principles of public ownership,

based on the assumption that the Maritime Provinces should receive special treatment.

Is that assumption correct? Sir Henry Thornton, President of the C.N.R., in his annual report to Parliament for the year 1925, says that rail rates in Canada are the lowest in the world.

It may be added that, because of their peculiar situation, with so much water competition, freight rates in the Maritime Provinces are the lowest in Canada. As an indication of the influence of water competition, a reference may be made to a statement appearing in another part of the report. An instance was cited of the rate "from Montreal to Ottawa, which is \$1.30 a ton for a haul of 117 miles, this being almost twice the cost of water transportation from Sydney to Montreal, approximately a distance of 850 miles."

The section of the National railway, upon which the Government plans to make the reduction, has not only never paid a cent of the capital cost of the railway, but has not and does not pay even the operating cost of the road.

With these facts before us—that the railway rates in Canada are the lowest in the world, that the Maritime rates are the lowest in Canada and that the C.N.R. is losing millions annually in operating expenses, the suggestion that there should be a further reduction of 20 per cent in the rates, the cost of such a generous cut being charged against all the people of Canada, is somewhat amazing.

WAS ATTEMPT TO BRIBE CONSTITUENCIES

The commissioners give as the chief excuse for this liberal treatment of the Maritime Provinces, the fact that for military reasons Canada built the Intercolonial Railway, not by the most direct route, but 250 miles longer than it might have been built. Liberals in the early days always questioned that excuse and showed very plainly that the extended

route was for partizan reasons, in an attempt to bribe the greater number of constituencies. It matters little now what was the motive of the early building. Canada spent \$40,000,000 in building the Intercolonial. Up to 1912 the capital account had reached \$100,000,000 and up to 1923 the capital cost to Canada for the road in question was \$160,000,000.

Since the beginning the road has paid nothing on capital charges, and except for an occasional year, it did not pay operating expenses. I have not the complete figures of the operating losses. I do know, however, that in 1912 the total deficit in operating charges up to that time was \$12,000,000. In their case before the commission the Nova Scotia advocates quote the section in question as losing \$12,000,000 in operating expenses during the three years ending with 1925.

Here, then, is the situation. Canada built the road and has received nothing for the building of it. It ran the road for the people whom it served and provided generously in addition for large deficits. No other people in Canada have been treated so liberally. It is on that section that the Government asks another reduction in rates of 20 per cent, the burden to be placed upon the Canadian people.

GIVE NO CONSIDERATION TO OTHER PROVINCES

The commissioners give no consideration to the other Provinces when they refer to the marketing conditions of the Maritime Provinces. The Eastern Provinces may have some minor difficulties, but they are at the very door of the greatest markets of the world, markets for what they have to sell and what they need to buy. It is idle to talk of the remote sea Provinces which are so near to the British markets. If the prairie farmers had their wheat at the sea port, the annual increase in their profits would be immense. The Alberta wheat crop would be worth at least \$25,000,000 more, if in the Maritime Provinces. It is impossible to estimate the increased value of Alberta farmers' cattle, if they were on the Eastern Seaboard.

If the Alberta farmer wasn't forced to pay the rail freight on all his purchases, or had to pay no more than the Maritime farmers have to pay, he would consider most of his problems solved.

MORE SERIOUS THAN FREIGHT RATE ALTERATION

Even more serious than the suggested alteration in the freight rate is the proposal to adopt the principle that freight rates are to be fixed in Parliament and not by the railway management under the supervision of the Railway Commission. That is a long step towards bringing back the national railway into politics, and reviving the bad old times when the Intercolonial Railway was a scandal in our domestic politics and held up all over the world as the horrible example of the evils of public ownership of railways.

But the Maritime Province member may ask us what about the Crow's Nest Pass agreement and if that was not fixed by Parliament. There is a very wide difference both in fact and political theory between the Crow's Nest Pass Agreement and the control that Parliament is likely to assume in making the cut in the Maritime rates. The Dominion of Canada, long before the organization of the new Provinces, or the creation of the railway

commission, made a bargain with a privately owned railway, paying a large share of the price out of Alberta lands. As far as the public is aware the railway made well out of the bargain, because for many years it carried freight at a rate still lower than the standard outlined in the agreement. There is good reason to believe that even now the railways are not losing money by this Crow's Nest Pass rate. The Crow's Nest Pass Agreement has not cost the people of Canada a cent of money. It is easy to contrast that condition with the history of the Maritime railway conditions, with the climax of a twenty per cent reduction in rates, fixed in Parliament.

If Parliament establishes the precedent of fixing rates now, it must act in similar cases all over Canada. It means bringing the railway into active partizanship, much as that is to be deplored.

SOME VERY DANGEROUS RECOMMENDATIONS

The report has some very dangerous recommendations, urging a change in the methods of fixing rail rates, suggesting that other elements than mere traffic should be taken into consideration; and also recommends some change in the powers of the management and in the Board of Railway Commissioners. Both are objectionable and dangerous, but I shall not make further reference, because the Government does not seem inclined to adopt these particular suggestions.

For similar reasons I shall not refer to the amazing recommendations for additional duties on coal and bounties for the manufacture of steel. The Government has taken no action.

Some recommendations about the development of the Maritimes are praiseworthy and may well be adopted. Others are not of very great importance.

SUPERFICIAL, UNSCIENTIFIC AND PAROCHIAL

But as a whole the report is superficial, unscientific and parochial. It is surprising that the Government should adopt without much more consideration, recommendations from a commission composed of one Englishman, a Montreal professor and a Nova Scotia county judge, who decide on the great problems in six months which Canadian Parliaments and Governments have been studying for the last sixty years.

The report is unscientific and incomplete. Take, for instance, the recommendation of increased subsidies for the three Provinces. Our constitution provides for subsidies on the basis of population. Here is how the additional subsidies work out:

| Province | Population | Added Subsidy | Per Capita |
|----------|------------|---------------|------------|
| P.E.I. | 88,615 | 125,000 | 1.41 |
| N.B. | 387,876 | 600,000 | 1.55 |
| N.S. | 523,837 | 875,000 | 1.67 |

No explanation is given, either by the commissioners or by the Government why Nova Scotia should receive more favored treatment than its two colleagues. No explanation is given as to the way the commissioners fix upon these figures.

The commissioners give no estimate of the approximate cost to the people of Canada, of the burden of assuming the additional reduction in the freight rates of the Maritime sections of the trans-continental railways.

These are a few of the objections to the report and to the legislation. The most serious is that the report and also the

legislation is parochial and sectional instead of being national, and for that reason, instead of creating harmony would increase confusion and discord.

Through the Provinces, and through them alone, can an agreement come which will be harmonious or enduring. Parliament would adopt this plan and hand it on to a conference of the Provinces; that is putting the cart before the horse. The Provinces should make the agreement, and in this year, when our national status has been so definitely and clearly recognised and when we are celebrating our jubilee, no Province could afford to be sectional or petty. If the Maritime Provinces have just grievances, they will be remedied, but by an adjustment which is national rather than by any sort of patching up which is sectional.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN ALBERTA

An encouraging feature of the report of the Public Health Department of Alberta for 1926, is the great improvement in the diphtheria situation. In Lethbridge alone, it is stated, the annual number of cases has been cut down from 80 to 8. The improvement has come about as a result of the use of the toxoid. In foreign districts, 3,155 persons have been given this treatment. A total of 18,350 people were given vaccine during the year.

The Nursing Branch had 130 schools under inspection during the year, in which 2,091 first inspections and 1,194 re-inspections were made. Home visits totalled 335, and 13 child welfare clinics were held in rural districts. In the three cities of Edmonton, Calgary and Medicine Hat, 200 clinics were held, with a total attendance of about 10,000. The district nurses in the frontier districts made more than 1,000 calls during the year, with 547 medical cases, 164 surgical cases and 33 obstetrical cases to attend to.

The Travelling Clinic

The travelling clinic which visited outlying districts, examined 746 medical cases, with 212 operations performed for tonsils and adenoids, and 321 dental treatments. The scope of these clinics will be extended this year.

Four new municipal hospital districts were created during the year, and all districts are in good shape financially. There are 75 approved hospitals in the Province altogether, including city hospitals, and 75 private hospitals.

The vital statistics report shows 13,893 births registered for 1926, with reports still to come in, 4,473 marriages—an increase of 219; 154 divorces—an increase of 53; and 5,125 deaths—an increase of 724.

In the mental hospital at Ponoka there are 886 patients, an increase of 68. There were 313 admissions during the year and 177 discharged, of which 78 were cured, 63 improved, 15 not improved, and 21 not insane. The recovery rate is 29.76 for males and 28 per cent. for females. At the Oliver Institute, for feeble minded, there are 215 in residence, and at the training school for mental defectives at Red Deer, there are 137 patients.

NEW LOCAL IN FAWCETT DISTRICT

H. Critchlow was the organizer of a new Local in the Fawcett district, named Sylvan Glen Local. J. Ruxton is president and E. W. Thornton secretary of the new organization.

News from Alberta Wheat Pool Head Office

Information for Members and Locals Issued by the Department of Education and Publicity of the Alberta Wheat Pool.

Wheat Pool Lectures

In the last issue we published the table of contents and the first of a series of fourteen short lectures contained in a booklet we have prepared for our members. We publish today No. 2 of the series. Any one may obtain a copy of the booklet or any one of the articles by writing to the Department of Education and Publicity.

Lecture No. 2

THE ECONOMY OF CO-OPERATION

The employment of the co-operative plan of marketing is a perfectly natural outgrowth arising from the inherent nature of the business of agriculture.

Unlike the industrial investor, the farmer is not interested in a return on the basis of capital invested in the organization. He is interested in the service rendered and the returns obtained on the basis of the business he contributes to the association; hence he employs the co-operative rather than the joint-stock form of organization. The isolated farmer is in no position to get fair treatment when trading with highly organized groups. The individual farmer is in a very weak position when he bargains with the interests who manufacture his produce, and his position is becoming continually less attractive in face of the rapid development of concentration in the businesses which change the raw product to food ready for use.

In order to overcome the serious lack of bargaining power of the individual farmer the progressive producers are forming large central organizations. In the face of more and more concentration of business and financial control the farmers must organize to protect their interest.

Co-operation Is Economically Sound and Is Good Business

We frequently hear from our opponents that co-operation violates economic principles and is contrary to sound business practice. Nothing could be farther from the truth. There is no conflict between business and co-operation. In fact, co-operation is simply the only suitable method of developing in agriculture large scale business organizations. It is the only feasible plan which makes possible the use of sound business practices in selling and distributing the products of innumerable small producing units.

It is nonsense to speak of co-operation being contrary to economic principles. What could be better economy than having one man do what many did before, or have one modern plant handle what a number of old plants handled, or one efficient staff do what many small staffs did? Agricultural co-operation is not opposed to good business in any sense of the word; it is an attempt on the part of agricultural producers to copy big business methods and secure the economic gains of large scale production and organization.

Prices Are Determined by Supply and Demand

It is true that prices are determined to a large extent by a group of forces which make up demand and a group of forces which make up supply. No good co-operative will deny the validity of this statement. However, many co-operatives have something to do with determining some of these forces. The old notion that the price is determined under free competition by a large number of individual offers and sales needs to be modified to be true of the price of many agricultural commodities. For instance, there is no such thing as the individual determination of the price of whole milk under free competition in most cities today. The price is determined by bargaining between the producers on the one hand and the distributors on the other. Where the milk producers are not organized they compete with one another, the inevitable result of which is lower prices.

Even in the case of such a staple article as wheat, the sentiment and psychology of the traders play a large part in determining the price. The best studies of wheat prices made so far show that a very large part of the variations in price cannot be explained by variations in supply. Prices

are determined by many factors and a large co-operative has a measure of control over some of them where the individual is helpless.

The Wheat Pool Makes no Attempt to Secure Monopoly Prices

The argument frequently put forward by the opponents of co-operation that agricultural co-operation is an attempt to gain control of food supplies and extract monopoly prices has no foundation whatsoever. The Canadian Wheat Pool could not get monopoly prices for any length of time even if it tried, and any attempt to do so could not but be harmful to the farmers in the long run. If the Wheat Pool were to hold its grain for prices higher than prevailing demand and supply conditions warranted, buyers would go elsewhere for their grain; consumption would decrease, as many people now eating wheat would use less wheat and more potatoes, rye, rice or buckwheat; we could not dispose of all our crop; production would be increased due to higher prices in all wheat growing countries, and ultimately prices would drop to much lower levels than they are at present.

The world's production of wheat is about three and one-half billion bushels per year. Canada produces annually from three to four hundred million bushels. To speak of a country which produces approximately ten per cent of the world's wheat supply extracting monopoly prices is nonsense.

The Experience of the Tobacco Pools

The experience of some co-operatives which have been in a position to exert a great influence on the price of their commodity should be a good lesson to those who think the goal of co-operative marketing should be monopoly prices. The Tobacco Pools of the United States, when first organized, controlled a large percentage of the supply. They set out to get materially higher prices. By holding a large part of the crop off the market they forced the buyers (there are only four principal buyers of tobacco in the United States) to pay high prices.

What were the results? Tobacco growing became more profitable than growing other crops. The production of tobacco was extended into areas not very well suited for its cultivation. The non-Pool farmers got all the advantages of the higher prices and paid none of the expenses borne by the Pool to maintain them. The Pool had to keep ever increasing amounts off the market to maintain prices. In the spring of 1926 the amount of tobacco held by an association was very considerably in excess of the normal annual consumption of the product. Few co-operatives can get monopoly prices and those which try usually defeat their own ends in the attempt.

Co-operative Associations Do Not Control Production

A co-operative association is primarily a selling organization. Unlike a manufacturing establishment, which produces as well as sells its product, the co-operative cannot control its production to any appreciable extent. It may control a large percentage of the present supply and get monopoly prices for a short time, but it cannot get such prices for long as it does not control production. The Canadian Pools make no attempt to secure monopoly prices. Our goal is a fair and reasonable price for our wheat—a just price in the light of all the factors which determine supply and all the factors which determine demand in any one year.

Questions to Be Answered by Opponents of Co-operation

How would the opponents of co-operation (now happily limited to those who have been getting what co-operation is now giving to the farmers) who contend that agricultural co-operation is economically unsound, answer the following questions?

1. Why is agricultural co-operation taught in every up-to-date agricultural institution in America?
2. Why do the departments of economics (manned by trained economists) in most universities encourage and assist agricultural co-operative societies?
3. Why has the United States Department of Agricultural Economics fostered and assisted co-operative enterprises for years?
4. Why has the United States recently established a department of co-operation with an annual appropriation of \$250,000?
5. Why have county agents, university extension de-

partments and departments of rural sociology actively engaged in co-operative organization?

6. Why have business men, bankers, noted financiers, chambers of commerce (those where the influence of private grain traders is not predominant) and numerous other disinterested parties endorsed co-operative marketing?

The answer to the above questions is, of course, that the encouragement of agricultural organization and co-operation is in the interests of the national welfare.

NOMINATE YOUR CHOICE FOR DELEGATE

In a short time each Pool member will be furnished with a list of the names of all members in his or her sub-district, and a nomination paper. Any member may secure the nomination of any member in

his or her sub-district as Pool delegate by obtaining the signature of ten Pool members on the nomination paper. All nominations must be in the hands of the Pool secretary at Calgary by June 15th. Upon receipt of the nominations the secretary will send all Pool members a ballot upon which will be printed the names of all candidates in the sub-district. The ballots should be marked by the preferential system and returned to the Pool Secretary by July 31st.

One of the cardinal principles of true co-operation is that each member, regardless of the volume of business he contributes to the association, has the same authority and equal right in the management and operation of his association as every other member. Every member should exercise his right by doing his best to see that his choice for delegate is elected. No organization can be truly democratic unless its members exercise their rights and privileges.

Amendments to the Canada Grain Act Before the House of Commons

The Manitoba Wheat Pool broadcasted the following information about the amendment to the Canada Grain Act to its members on March 31st:

The following special despatch from its staff correspondent at Ottawa appeared in the *Winnipeg Free Press*:

"Large delegations representing the Winnipeg Grain Exchange are here to oppose and support the amendments to the Grain Act, now on the order paper in the name of Hon. James Malcolm, Minister of Trade and Commerce. These amendments contain the vital clauses of the Campbell Bill of 1925 and 1926, which would compel country elevators to guarantee grade and weight of wheat shipped by farmers, no matter to which terminal elevator it was consigned. The grain exchange, which is opposing the bill is represented here by Robert MacGill, Secretary; J. C. Gage and R. T. Evans. Isaac Pitblado, K.C. and H. J. Symington, K.C., are acting as counsel.

"The legislation will be supported by the Wheat Pools. A. J. McPhail, head of the Central Pool, is here already, and wires were sent west this morning to Colin Burnell, and other Wheat Pool officials, requesting their presence. It is probable that the fight on the bill will take place in the Commons. The Progressives are going to oppose any move on the part of the Government to send the bill to the Agricultural Committee. They claim that it should be dealt with the same as other legislation which failed of enactment last session and be considered in Committee of the Whole in the House. This would prevent representations being made. The grain exchange delegates rely upon the recommendation of the Grain Commission to aid them in defeating the measure. It appears that shortly after taking office Hon. James Malcolm, who is on record as opposing the measure, submitted it to the grain commission for advice. The Commission recommended that the country elevators be compelled to guarantee grade but not weight. It is possible that an amendment to this effect will be moved in the House of Commons on second reading of the bill, but so far no final decision has been made. Most of the grain men

are of the opinion that the fight should be made in the senate."

That is the end of the Winnipeg Free Press despatch.

OWNER IS PERSON WHO SHOULD DECIDE

Farmers will remember that the Canada Grain Act was considerably amended in 1925, following suggestions made by the Turgeon Commission. Mr. Justice Turgeon, himself, prepared these amendments to the act in consultation with the Board of Grain Commissioners and among the changes which he suggested was one under which it was permitted to the individual farmer to choose the terminal elevator to which his grain was to be shipped by the country elevator to which he delivered it. Mr. Justice Turgeon, in his draft bill, stated that he had endeavored to make it clear in his proposed change to the act, "that the owner of the grain is the person who shall decide to what terminal elevator his grain is to be shipped." Now remember that when Mr. Justice Turgeon included this change in his amendment to the Canada Grain Act, he had consulted with the Board of Grain Commissioners and it is quite evident that when the change appeared in his draft bill, there had been no objection to it from the Board of Grain Commissioners. Consequently it is fair to say that in 1925 the Turgeon commission and the Board of Grain Commissioners were agreed that the farmer should be permitted to ship his grain to whatever terminal elevator he might choose.

Mr. Justice Turgeon's amendment was not accepted by Parliament. The organized grain trade put up a great fight against it and they succeeded in convincing the Government in 1925 that the amendment should not be passed. Instead, that particular section of the act was amended to suit the wishes and demands of the Grain Trade and the farmer was not only not given the right to ship his grain to whatever terminal elevator he chose, but was deprived of the right to have his grade and weight guaranteed if he took delivery of his grain at a country elevator.

BILL PASSED AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE

Last year Milton Campbell, M.P. for McKenzie, Sask., introduced a bill in the House, which was identical with the amendment which had been proposed by Mr. Justice Turgeon and which, be it remembered, had also been agreed to by the Board of Grain Commissioners. This amendment was to give the farmers the right to ship their grain to whatever terminal elevator they might choose. The Boards of Directors of the three Pools passed resolutions supporting this Campbell amendment to the Canada Grain Act and the farmers' organizations. The three Prairie Provinces also supported it. Representatives of the Pools and the Secretary of the Canadian Council of Agriculture appeared at Ottawa to give evidence before the Agricultural Committee in support of the bill. The Grain Trade, represented by a strong array of legal talent also appeared before the Agricultural Committee, but in spite of the utmost effort of the Grain Trade, the bill was passed by the Agricultural Committee by a very large majority. Subsequently, the bill came before the House of Commons, where only two speeches were made against it, both of them by representatives from Winnipeg, whom the electors rejected last Fall. The bill passed the House of Commons without a division and was before the Senate when the political crisis developed and Parliament was dissolved. When this bill was before Parliament the Grain Trade was using every means within its power to have the bill killed. This year the Government undertook to introduce the measure itself, and it is apparent that considerable pressure is being brought to bear upon the Government by the Grain Trade to have the measure so modified that it will be useless to the farmer.

It has been proposed, for instance, that where the farmer chooses the terminal elevator the elevator company shall be responsible for grade only and not for weight. Such a provision would practically destroy the value of the amendment.

THE WHOLE BILL AND NOTHING BUT THE BILL

Our position with regard to this measure is the same as that of the Reformers in 1832, whose slogan was in connection with the Reform Bill, "The bill, the whole bill, and nothing but the bill." We want the amendment to the Canada Grain Act which was proposed by Mr. Justice Turgeon after his Commission had given both an extensive and an intensive studying to the whole subject. We want the bill as it passed the House of Commons without a division last fall. We believe that this bill secured the farmers a right which they have possessed under the law ever since grain has been marketed in Western Canada—a right which the farmers did not extensively exercise, because it would have meant nothing to them. Now the right does mean something to them, because they have their own terminals to which their own grain may be shipped and Mr. Justice Turgeon expressly stated in his report that no obstacle should be put in the way of the Pools in Western Canada taking into their own terminals the grain of their own members.

This is a matter of very great importance to the farmers in Western Canada and it would be a good thing if Pool members were at this time to drop a line to their representative at Ottawa, asking him to do his utmost to secure the amendment to the Canada Grain Act.

which was passed by the House of Commons last session under the designation, "bill number eight."

CO-OPERATE

Ay tink Ay vill co-operate
Und help my neighbor out.
Ay can't get anyvare' alone;
Dat's so vidout a doubt.

He needs my help, Ay needs hes, too,
Ve pull yust like a team—
Ven he kvits quarreling vid me
Und Ay kvits fighting heem.

Ve neighbors act yust like beeg fools
Ven ve each odder fight
Und say each odder von is wrong
Ven neider von is right.

Ve pull our loads dat easy
No vun will veel de weight—
Ven me und heem togeder work.
Und boat co-operate.

—Exchange.

L. D. Nesbitt Makes Speaking Tour of Many Points

Enthusiasm for Pool Shown at Points
Visited—Tour Extends on C.P.R.
From Coronation to Saskatchewan
Boundary

Along the Canadian Pacific branch line from Coronation to the Saskatchewan border the Wheat Pool is a very important matter with the wheat producers and the members of this organization are intensely loyal and very deeply interested in the workings of this great co-operative movement.

L. D. Nesbitt, from the Head Office staff of the Pool at Calgary, addressed a series of twelve meetings between March 23 and March 31 in that widespread district. From his observations it is confidently believed that the Pool idea is resting on a firm foundation in that area.

Coronation riding could hardly be anything else than a hot bed for co-operative marketing. The Wheat Pool idea was strong there even before the Alberta Pool was formed, and as a matter of historical fact, a local Pool was in process of formation when the movement became Province-wide, and the local plan was submerged in the broader one which included all the producers of Alberta. The local association was named "The Coronation U. F. A. Wheat Association" and the advisory committee consisted of C. C. Wager, of Federal; C. C. Wilson, of Sedalia; G. N. Johnston, of Loyalist; H. Sheardown, of Bulwark; T. Partridge, of Monitor; C. A. Fawcett, of Consort; T. Fisher, of Coronation; and John Mitchell, of Monitor. These men organized an educational campaign and covered the district thoroughly, with splendid results, the fruits of which are manifest even to this day.

EXPRESS CONFIDENCE IN MANAGEMENT

The first meeting of Mr. Nesbitt's tour was held at Federal with a good crowd present. At the conclusion of the address a resolution was passed, expressing confidence in the management of the Wheat Pool. C. C. Wager is the delegate of this division and takes time to preach

the Pool gospel throughout his district, in spite of the fact that he farms between 600 and 700 acres.

At Consort a big meeting was held, probably the largest of the tour. Consort farmers have a splendid hall of their own and they are keenly alive to the value of close co-operation and organization. Chas. A. Fawcett, a successful farmer and a leader in co-operation, is the delegate of this division and a hard worker for the Wheat Pool. He accompanied Mr. Nesbitt on a considerable part of the speaking tour.

ONE HUNDRED PER CENT LOYAL

At Hillanvale school, John Mitchell was chairman. After the address the farmers present voted unanimously in favor of signing the new contract when it is issued. This local held an enjoyable program after the Wheat Pool session, and songs and recitations were given in excellent style.

Monitor was the next point of call, and a satisfactory meeting was held, and the promise given that that district would show even greater activity in Wheat Pool matters in the future.

From Monitor the speakers drove to Basin Lake school, participating of the kindly hospitality of the Gudim home. At Basin Lake an interesting meeting was held and Mr. Gudim then drove the Pool speakers to Pemukan, where the train was taken for Kirriemuir. At Kirriemuir a Wheat Pool local was formed after the meeting. There was a good attendance and a great deal of discussion and the usual loyalty to the Pool was shown.

AT THE WHEAT SHEAF SCHOOL

Wheat Sheaf school had a big crowd of ladies and men out, the seats being practically all taken. Wheat Sheaf district is a good district and the farmers there are keenly alive to the advantages of co-operation. They aim at 100 per cent sign up with the new contracts. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Morley and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Gowland entertained Mr. Fawcett and Mr. Nesbitt over the week-end and the next day Compeer was reached. This little town is right on the Saskatchewan border and on both sides of the border the Wheat Pool spirit is staunch. A local was formed here with Mr. Colwell as president and Mr. M. Templeton as secretary. The Alberta and Saskatchewan Pool members are going to work together there, all for the same object—a bigger sign-up of wheat producers.

Driving over half bare roads, Altario was reached. There Mr. and Mrs. Kallman entertained the visitors and a lively meeting was held in the school house. Wheat Sheaf and Altario are going to work together in Wheat Pool matters and a joint meeting was arranged for a later date.

BIG ATTENDANCE AT BROADVIEW

The next point on the itinerary was Broadview school. Broadview farmers and their wives turn out well to meetings and a large attendance was in evidence. At the conclusion of the address there was some discussion and a vote passed to ask the U. G. G. Co. and the Alberta Wheat Pool to get together in order that an amicable arrangement could be reached for the Pool to take over the U. G. G. elevator at Loyalist.

The speaker was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. LeBlance and Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Sturmer, at Broadview.

Torger Johnson is the delegate of this division and he met the Pool representative at Loyalist. The roads were bad and he feared the attendance would be small, but happily such was not the case, for the room where the meeting was held was overcrowded. An interesting discussion followed the address at this point.

FARMERS DRIVE LONG WAY

Veteran was the next stop, with the usual big crowd out, and Mr. Cook as chairman. Some of the farmers drove upwards of eight miles over bad roads on a dark night to attend this meeting. The co-operative spirit is much alive at Veteran.

Next day Mr. Nesbitt drove from early morning until late in the afternoon in an attempt to reach Talbot school, on roads that were not completely bare of snow. In the afternoon a break-down occurred, the tongue being snapped from the cutter and the horses becoming excited and attempting to run away. This prevented Talbot being reached and also threw out the Throne meeting. In addressing two meetings a day, interspersed with long rides over the trails, and also suffering from the effects of a bad cold, the speaker was rather used up by this time, although sorry to disappoint the people of Talbot and Throne. Lew Hutchinson, the director for Camrose, will cover these points later.

ORGANIZATION IN SPLENDID HANDS

In conclusion it might be remarked that the organization of the Coronation district appears to be in splendid hands. The leaders know their duties thoroughly and are well supported by the people. The hospitality of the farmers there is a pleasant thing to encounter.

RADIO WIRE TO BE INSTALLED IN WHEAT POOL OFF. CE

Members Will Have Opportunity To
Hear Directors Over Radio Soon

Wheat Pool members will have an opportunity to hear all the members of the Board of Directors over the radio very soon. You will also hear C. M. Hall, manager of the Pool elevators; George Melvor, Western Sales Manager; R. O. German, Secretary of the Pool, and R. D. Purdy, the Manager of the Pool. Each one will speak for at least half an hour. H. W. Wood, President of the Wheat Pool and President of the U.F.A., will be the first speaker. In our next broadcast we will give you the exact time you may hear each speaker.

At a future date we will also broadcast a musical program given exclusively by members of the Pool and Pool Elevator staffs.

We are making arrangements to have a radio wire installed in the Wheat Pool office. In the future all Pool news will come directly from the Pool office. We are also making arrangements to broadcast simultaneously from Edmonton and Calgary. The broadcast will be carried by wire from the Pool Office to Edmonton, where it will be broadcasted from the *Edmonton Journal* station CJCA.

As soon as we complete the arrangements we will announce the exact time you may hear Pool news each week. Watch the daily papers for the announcement.

A number of members have written in enquiring about the expense of the radio

programs—apparently there are many Scotchmen who are members of the Pool. It costs the Pool \$10 to \$15 for each fifteen to twenty minute broadcast. The cost of having a wire put into the Pool office will be only \$10 for three months. We do not know the exact cost of sending the broadcast by wire to Edmonton, but it will not be more than a few dollars. As soon as we have made complete arrangements we will announce the exact cost. The Pool is glad to receive, and will be pleased to answer in full, enquiries from members at any time about the expenses of any department.

British money invested in Canada amounts to two billion dollars. American investments in Canada total three billion dollars.

Sixty-four per cent of the population of the three prairie Provinces live in rural districts.

Corn production in Alberta last year was valued at one million dollars.

SASKATCHEWAN POOL ADDS TO ELEVATORS

Construction or acquisition of country elevators at 57 points has been decided upon by the directors of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool. This will bring the total number of elevators owned by the Pool to 644 for the 1927-28 crop season.

TUNE IN ON MANITOBA AND SASKATCHEWAN POOLS

Manitoba Pool.—Daily over CKY Winnipeg, at 12:40 p.m.

Saskatchewan Pool.—Every Thursday, 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. over CKCK, Regina and CFQC, Saskatoon, by remote control from the Pool office in Regina.

ALBERTA LEGISLATURE

(Continued from Page 8)

and sales were properly the prerogative of Provinces, and the need for a re-allocation of the field of taxation was overdue. In the event of the Province duplicating the income tax, for instance, he thought there should only be one assessment body and one collecting body to avoid heavy overhead.

The matter of policing was important. The R.C.M.P. was largely a pioneer body, and should be utilised only in the territories, the work of policing the Province being solely in the hands of the Province, the Ottawa Government making such contributions to the upkeep as were necessary in lieu of the actual force.

As we were not facing an election, now was the time to deal with the matter of Senate reform. This body, Mr. Shaw thought, failed to function in the best interests of the people. He had changed his mind on the question of its abolition, and now he deemed it necessary to have a second chamber. This chamber had been based on the system in the United States, but in the latter country the Senate had become the stronger and more useful body. The Provinces should have the prerogative of the selection or election of the Senate and should have power to determine the method of appointment.

The last clause dealt with the problem of the northern railways. The day of subsidising railway companies ought to pass and the direct responsibility for colonization roads should be assumed by the Dominion.

Mr. Shaw concluded by saying that if the Province could have its representatives attend the coming conference and lay these matters before it the resulting good would be abundant, and he trusted the members would give the resolution their support.

WHITE MAKES IMPORTANT SUGGESTIONS

Fred White, Calgary, (Labor) had nothing further to add to the very commendable speech on the clauses included in the resolution. There were a few other subjects which Labor wanted included, if there was to be any latitude at the conference. The subject of the Old Age Pension Bill was one, and the Alberta representatives were asked to work for its adoption by the Provinces. Afterwards, when the Premier laid it down as a matter of policy that this Government would only consent to work for the old age pension measure being made an entirely Dominion responsibility, Mr. White consented to accept the suggestion. Then there was the recent large land grant to the Hudson's Bay Company, which Mr. White wanted annulled if possible, and he thought the matter of granting the Provinces greater rights with regard to the selection or exclusion of immigrants as was found necessary from time to time by conditions within the Province, was important. The railway companies might boast at times of being able to place immigrants, but it often happened in his opinion that the placement of one meant the displacement of another.

The coal question was another worthy subject for discussion, as was the re-establishment of the right of peaceful picketing, left out of the statutes at Ottawa on the last revision. The matter of grants for technical education and the necessity for their continuance should also be brought to the attention of the Federal authorities, as discontinuance in the near future would be a heavy blow to Alberta.

The Premier, speaking to the question, said the Government had received no official notification of the conference, but only what had appeared in press reports. He could not, therefore, say what the scope of the conference would be. If it were only to deal with questions of constitutionality, then the other subjects referred to would be barred. If the scope was wide enough, he assured the members that the Province would be represented and the questions mentioned in the resolution placed before the conference. The Government would welcome the opportunity.

HUDSON BAY LAND GRANT

After getting Mr. White's consent to alter the Old Age Pension Bill suggestion, the Premier referred to the matter of the Hudson's Bay land grant. He thought the suggestion of elimination of the grant was questionable. The Dominion Government in making the grant had acted within their rights, whether we liked it or not. Those acquainted with the history of Canada would remember that the company was given certain land grants in return for the withdrawal of certain original rights. The Dominion had made the grant, signed, sealed and delivered, and the Premier thought that while they could utter a protest it would be futile. The Government was grateful for the suggestions offered, and would welcome others. He favored the resolution and amendments.

MCGILLIVRAY URGES CAUTIOUS POLICY

A. A. McGillivray's turn came to offer suggestions. His was that they should be very very cautious when it came to a question of changing the system of constitutionality. The matter should be scanned closely before consenting to anything which might deprive the Province of its inalienable rights under the present B.N.A., as might happen if the Dominion was granted the right to amend the constitution. The suggestion was fraught with the utmost danger, and it should be clearly placed on record that no Government at Ottawa should have the right to make change without the fullest consent and concurrence of the Provinces.

He agreed with the resolution in respect to the clauses on social legislation, but feared the question of subsidies might deprive the Province of her natural resources. He ridiculed the idea of Senate reform, stating that objection to the Senate always came from those whose party was in the minority in that body. An elected body was a farce, so why not elect more members to the House of Commons instead? he sneered.

As to Fred White's amendments, the leader had just received a copy and it was not wise to pass at a moment's notice clauses which would have far-reaching effect. He wanted delay to think them over and prepare a speech on them. He moved, therefore, the adjournment of the debate.

His request being answered by cries of "No" the question was put, the Premier going on record as being willing to grant anyone time for consideration when desired. The adjournment was granted by 24 to 14.

Many Suggestions for Conference of Canada Provinces

Assembly Also Hears Discourse on Tar Sands Resources of the North

FRIDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, April 1.—"Man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward," must have been the reflection of Mr. Speaker as Leader A. A. McGillivray trotted out another host of suggested amendments to the Shaw resolution of today. That makes an amendment to the amendment. Debate was adjourned by O. L. McPherson.

Sixteen bills were finally passed, several received second reading, and a number were dealt with in committee of the whole.

NON-PARTY DIVISION ON VEHICLE BILL

One bill up for third reading was attacked briefly—that to license and regulate motor vehicles and highways. George Webster, Calgary, (Liberal), moved that it be recommitted to strike out the word "exclusive" from one of the clauses, on the contention that the word was obnoxious, not necessary, and one giving powers which his side of the Assembly did not contemplate giving to any Minister. A division followed, the Liberals, Conservatives, Pattinson and Parkyn (Labor) Washburn and Connor, (U.F.A.), voting for the re-committal, the balance of Farmers, White and Gibbs (Labor) voting against, Andrew Smeaton (Labor) not

voting and Christophers (Labor) not present. The bill was passed.

A resolution on the order paper in the name of J. W. Frame, Athabasca, (Liberal), urging extension of the A. & G. W. Railway from Waterways to Fort McMurray and the building of a spur from Fort McMurray to the salt wells, was altered by him in conformity with suggestions arising out of the evidence given before the Agricultural Committee by Mr. Gillespie of the Salt Industry and Mr. Canfield of California, a gentleman interested in the tar sands of the north. The new form took the line that the question of the extension should be investigated to ascertain the possibilities of developing the salt and asphalt industries. Mr. Frame gave a well prepared speech, delivered in very convincing manner, and the sympathy of most members was with him, as evidenced by the passing of the resolution without division.

Fred J. White, Calgary, (Labor) also took the floor with a resolution bearing upon the making applicable, in its entirety, of wage agreement No. 6 and all supplements thereto as between the Government, and the representatives of the shop employees, as was in effect on the other railways in Canada. After discussion, Mr. White deemed that his objective had been obtained, as he obtained leave to withdraw the resolution.

VALUE OF NORTHERN RESOURCES

J. W. Frame, speaking to his resolution, pointed out the great potential value of the resources of the north, so vast that he could not see why the A. & G. W., if the short extensions were made, should fail to be a revenue producing road. In addition to the tar sands and salt deposits there were millions of acres of timber and oil resources waiting for development. Last year, according to the statement of the Minister of Railways, the A. & G. W. had an increase of revenue over 1925 amounting to \$30,000. They had shipped 2,000 tons of salt out of there, and if the industry was organized it would increase by leaps and bounds. Ten thousand tons per year would mean a yearly revenue of \$40,000 to the A. & G. W. At the ratio of ton for ton coal going in it would mean \$22,500, this in turn would boost miners' wages \$19,000 and the workers in the salt industry would have a payroll amounting to \$35,000. The money spent for salt went out of the Province, and shipments from Ontario meant \$200,300 in freight, which sum, covering 10,000 tons of salt would be saved to the railways of Alberta.

The member from Athabasca reminded the Assembly that Mr. Gillespie and his company had each agreed to put up a bond (\$75,000 each) and if freight shipments did not come up to a specified standard the difference would be met by either one of the guarantors. Mr. Frame next dealt with the tar sands. According to Mr. Canfield, he said, who was an expert and capitalist from California, Alberta had in the north an area of unstated dimensions of potential asphalt of a quality testing higher than that of California.

UNLIMITED SUPPLIES OF ASPHALT

"Why," asked the member, "import asphalt from California when we have unlimited supplies right at our door awaiting development." The use of this material for roads and streets was bound to grow. Mr. Canfield had told the committee that morning that he was bringing a demonstration plant from New York,

which he would set up at the University to give proof of the quality and possibility of the sands from McMurray. If the Government would build the road from Waterways to McMurray or the salt wells, Mr. Canfield's company would put in the additional mile of road to the sands. The company had \$200,000 deposited in an Alberta bank to begin the enterprise, and this was not a case of selling stock, as this company made a business of developing asphalt, having holdings in operation in California of 82,000 cubic feet.

Mr. Frame understood that the Government did not require to purchase rails or bridges, as they had these ready to ship in. The fish industry had put out 330,000 pounds of fish last year, from below McMurray, shipments to New York of fresh uncleaned fish bringing as high as \$1.10 per pound. Mr. Frame's little old home town shipped 160,000 pounds whitefish; as well as between five and six million feet of lumber, 50,000 ties, besides 200,000 bushels of wheat.

A. A. McGillivray, Calgary, said the development of the north country was one in which everybody should be concerned, but in view of the already huge burden of debt carried by the railways of the Province, he would like to hear from those in charge of the Department of Railways as to whether this particular venture would redound to the benefit of the people of the Province, and if it was thought that the project itself was economically sound.

PREMIER GIVES HISTORY OF GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS

J. E. Brownlee, Premier, gave the Assembly the history of the effort to deal with this same question in the past. George Mills, former member for Athabasca, had introduced a similar resolution last year, but the Government had had to take the position that it was not at that time justified in proceeding with the work. They had carried on negotiations over a period with the representatives of the proposed investors, and there was hope that development would ultimately accrue. The L. & N.W. would possibly develop to a paying basis, as would the E.D. & B.C. but the A. & G.W. in which there was an excessively large investment, was the heaviest burden of all. The one ray of hope lay in the development of the potential resources which lay near the terminus of that unprofitable road. The Premier mentioned the fact that negotiations were being conducted with a Mr. Draper who had plans for the extraction of the valuable compound from the elements comprising the sands, and if the process turned out to be sound, no extension might be necessary. He was not at liberty to reveal the terms or objects, but he said there were reasonable hopes of an industry of that nature being established near the present terminus. He felt that the proper course to pursue at present was to continue negotiations to induce the proposed organisations to undertake more of this work on their own behalf.

The Premier gave very interesting figures as to the probable cost and earning power of the extensions. It was one and a half miles from Waterways to Fort McMurray, and one and a half miles to the salt wells from there. The first portion would not be very costly, but the latter would require \$70,000 per mile. Revenues from the hauling of salt alone at 40 tons per day, 12,000 per year, at \$4.00 per ton would be \$48,000. Deducting cost of handling, \$0.01 per ton for 300 miles, \$36,000 would leave a profit of

\$12,000. The coal needed would bring in \$22,500, the cost of handling which would be \$15,000, a profit of \$7,500, leaving a net profit all told of \$19,500. The cost of construction would be around \$150,000, while the operating costs of the extensions alone would be around \$15,000 to \$19,000 a year. It was doubtful if the extra handling would cover the cost of operation and the charges on the cost of construction. The Government was asked to do what no private company would venture upon.

The Premier wanted more definite information than at present in their possession before embarking on this construction, especially in the light of the certain knowledge that other railways like the E.D. & B.C. had agricultural assets much more promising at present, and where extensions were badly needed. They would investigate fully all the possibilities.

D. M. Duggan, Edmonton, (Conservative), said that monies had been voted for extensions to agricultural schools and other worthy objects without question, and here we had hammering at our doors people eager to invest in and develop natural resources. He thought the matter, while not mandatory, was one which should seriously engage the attention of the Executive Council.

TESTS OF SANDS SUCCESSFUL

Col. Weaver, Edmonton (Conservative) touched on the fact that actual tests of the sands had been made right here in Edmonton, and had been highly successful. There was not much likelihood that rural roads would employ that material for some time but cities were making increasing use of it.

L. A. Giroux, Grouard, (Liberal), pointed out that the extension would facilitate as well the importation of goods into the great northland. The trade developed at the end of the line would compensate for the great distances of unprofitable road which lay for miles along the right of way. Another thing which had to be considered was the benefit to the consumer, and he urged the Department to go on with the extension on the two grounds that it would pay on investment and benefit the people.

PRIORITY OF E.D. & B.C. EXTENSIONS

Hugh Allen, Peace River, (U.F.A.), raised the one really dissentient voice, claiming the priority of the extensions of the E.D. & B.C. where trade was ready now and settlers penalised for lack of facilities.

The resolution carried without division.

MCGILLIVRAY CRITICAL OF SHAW RESOLUTION

A. A. McGillivray, Calgary, resuming the adjourned debate on Mr. Shaw's resolution, elaborated on the constitutional question in clause 1; took a slam at the "dole" in clause two, asking that the word "necessity" be changed to "question"; took exception to the clause on Senate reform, saying that this Government would certainly resent another Government coming with the demand "that we should more closely approximate to the wishes and desires of the framers of confederation"; that we might "become more democratic" and more "effectively represent the public will." It was absurd.

Then coming to the amendments offered by Fred White, the Conservative leader wanted clause 8 amended by

striking out the word "repeal" the word "question" being put in its place. No one, not even the Premier, had the facts regarding this transaction other than what had appeared in the press two years ago.

Clause 9 could, in his opinion, be happily struck out. The B.N.A. was our constitution, and the Dominion was the predominant legislative body, and the representative of the Province could talk till he was blue in the face, it would make no difference—so that was that.

Clause 11 was a vital question, and hinged around the meaning of the words "peaceful picketing." There had been much bloodshed over what was commonly called peaceful picketing, and the phrase had a meaning in law which it was possible was not the meaning given it by the Labor leader. Persuasion was a virtue, but coercion an evil, and the question was to determine where persuasion ended and coercion began. Mr. McGillivray wanted the word "reinstatement" replaced by "question" so as to find some intermediate point of agreement.

LIKE THE FAMOUS FOURTEEN POINTS

The leader then presented some suggestions of his own, until, as O. L. McPherson pointed out, the thing had gone beyond the limit of the famous fourteen points of other days. His additions were along lines like this:

Clause 13: To impress the Dominion Government with the necessity that it assume responsibility for the people of the drouth area. The Government had induced people to go there on the understanding that the land was fit for agriculture, and the Dominion had never recognised its responsibility in bringing people in nor its moral responsibility for them after they came here.

Clause 14: The necessity of determining the matters which now stood in the way of the development of Spray Lakes.

Clause 15: Co-operation between the Dominion and the Province with regard to the inflow of immigration, and at the same time to preclude the possibility of a flood in any one direction.

Clause 16: Consider the question of joint councils between employers and employees, so that a basis of agreement could be reached for prevention of industrial war. This would bring together the sane employees and the sane among the employers and facilitate a solution for this sometimes vexed question.

Clause 17: Lastly, take up once more the question of the return without conditions, of the natural resources to the Province.

SHAW HAS PERTINENT OBJECTION

Speaking to the Conservative Leader's amendment, Joseph T. Shaw, Bow Valley, mover of the original resolution, took exception to practically all of the points raised as being matters purely as between the Dominion and this Province. The proposed conference was not to be called to settle matters as between this Province and the Dominion, but was for the purpose of conference between representatives of all Provinces and the Dominion on questions germane to all.

There was already an understanding between this Province and the Dominion with regard to the drouth area, as witness the Tilley report. The hydro scheme did not concern other Provinces. The question of immigration was already

included in Clause 4 of the original resolution, and was included with a view to the discussion of the matter not in relation to any one limited section but in relation to the whole. The question of employer and employee was vague, and Mr. Shaw had no idea of how this could be worked out at the conference. Finally, there was already an agreement between this Government and that at Ottawa with regard to the natural resources, only awaiting the decision of the Court as to certain matters, and to plunge this question into this coming conference of all the Provinces would merely jeopardise the existing agreement. Mr. Shaw pointed these things out, not because he disagreed with the spirit of them, but because they were foreign to the scope of the conference.

In view of the new amendments, and the need for time in considering them, O. L. McPherson, Minister of Public Works, adjourned the debate.

On the question of privilege on orders of the day, Joseph T. Shaw drew attention to a press report that he had accepted Fred White's amendments to his resolution. This was not the case. Not only had he not done so, but he wanted it understood that he was in complete disagreement with several of them.

Fred White's proposals were as follows:

That the following sections be added to the motion:

7. A careful consideration of the Old Age Pensions scheme for Canada with a view to meeting any objection that may arise from the various Provinces.

8. Repeal of the recent land grant and other concessions to the Hudson's Bay Co., in the north.

9. The right of each Province to close its boundaries to immigration.

10. A national coal policy.

11. Reinstatement of the right of peaceful picketing.

12. Continuation of technical school grants.

Assembly Prorogues After Strenuous Day Clearing Order Paper

Cadet Training Question Shelved—No Vote on Shaw Resolution

SATURDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, April 2.—Tired statesmen, with nerves raw and tempers ruffled, climbed the last long grade of legislative endeavor all day Saturday, from 10 o'clock in the attempt to put the finishing touches to the work begun on February 10th. At the outset it looked like a hopeless task, as five resolutions, one of which had been amended and sub-amended (that of Capt. Shaw on the proposed Ottawa Conference) were still on the order paper. By the time of re-assembly after a brief period for lunch the grist had been reduced to 29 bills and three resolutions, four bills being still away back in the jungle of second readings.

Nevertheless by 6:15 the whole litter had been cleaned up, the residue being consigned to the limbo of the lost. The balance of the time up until 6:45 was taken up with third readings and the final passing of legislation which had reached that stage, then entered Lieutenant Governor Egbert, accompanied by a solitary aide, and having given the royal

assent, and his vice-regal benediction, the Premier afterwards declared the Assembly prorogued.

MEMBERS' RASPINESS QUITE FORGIVABLE

That members at times got raspy was quite forgivable. Labor particularly was on its toes with nerves aquiver. Three times during the long day the members on the sandwiched benches flared up hot and bellicose. The first little jab came when Premier Brownlee moved that the Factories Act be recommitted to strike out the words "shall come into effect when assented to" and replace them by "shall come into effect by proclamation." He explained that representations had been made by oil drillers pointing out the hardship which would accrue from the immediate passing of the eight hour day and other provisions which this amendment implied. The consent of the Assembly was given, of course, but when the bill came once more to the third stage, Fred J. White moved that it be recommitted to strike out "by proclamation" and insert "when assented to." This by way of showing Labor's displeasure.

The worst period of all, and one of the tensest since the Assembly met, was on the result of the vote on cadet training. This had been dealt with on four successive occasions in Committee, witnesses pro and con being heard in evidence. The climax was reached when the committee had rather reluctantly agreed to place a resolution before the Assembly, recommending that after September 1st next, the time stipulated in the curriculum for physical training must be devoted wholly for that purpose in the schools of this Province.

On this motion being presented by the Chairman of the Committee, Donald Cameron, Elnora, (U.F.A.), another U. F. A. member, D. C. Breton, Leduc, moved an amendment, in which it stated that as cadet training was not compulsory, being left to the discretion of the school board, an elective body, the present system be continued, as well as provision being made for the physical training of children whose parents were opposed to cadet training, having it made plain that cadet training was in no wise compulsory.

MRS. PARLBY OPPOSES AMENDMENT

Well, Fred J. White, the originator of the motion in committee, and Mrs. Irene Parlbay, Lacombe, Minister Without Portfolio, spoke to the matter in a highly commendable way, Mrs. Parlbay particularly lifting the question to a very high plane strictly in keeping with the subject matter of the resolution. She was opposed to the amendment. A. A. McGillivray spoke in favor of the amendment, but still the atmosphere was such that had the vote been taken at that moment the resolution originally introduced would have carried. Unfortunately for those who sponsored the elimination of cadet training during school hours, which was really all that was asked for, one of the Labor members R. H. Parkyn, Calgary, injected the fatal atmosphere of anti-militarism which was beside the point at issue, and from then on the cause went down to defeat, some former members swinging to the amendment, while several refrained from voting.

Even at that, the vote on D. C. Breton's amendment, stood at 26 for and 22 against, a close vote indeed, and one under circumstances which many members felt did not justify Ald. Gibbs, Edmonton, before the motion as amended was disposed of, giving members on the Govern-

ment side of the Assembly a tongue-lashing unprecedented during the session.

The endeavor of Fred White to debate the question further was ruled out. He then tried to move an amendment, which was also ruled out. He tried once more to have the question shelved by moving a hoist, but this also was unavailing, the Speaker ruling that hoists were not permissible on resolutions. Ex-Speaker Pingle took a hand in the matter, as well as Andrew Smeaton, Lethbridge, (Labor).

QUESTION SHELVED FOR PRESENT YEAR

The Speaker finally pointed a way out by suggesting that someone could move the adjournment of the debate, although it had been pointed out that there was no debate unless an amendment was being offered.

Mr. Smeaton, Lethbridge, moved the adjournment of the debate, which, being accepted, and put, carried without dissent, thus shelving for this year the entire question.

DEBATE ON SHAW RESOLUTION ON HIGH PLANE

The same finish was accorded Joseph T. Shaw's motion, dealt with twice already and to which further amendments had been offered. Compromise having been effected by Premier Brownlee, to permit the views of Liberals, Labor and Conservatives to find expression at the forthcoming Dominion-wide conference, Mr. Shaw, after a splendid debate, and one carried all the way through on a high plane, moved the adjournment, thus shelving the question as agreed upon.

A Bill dealing with Public Utilities Act amendments, introduced by D. M. Duggan, Edmonton, (Conservative) but somewhat emasculated, passed, granting a modified form of appeal from the decisions of the Board on questions of jurisdiction, and also making provisions for the scrutiny of contracts between persons or corporations for the supply of gas, having in mind the Royalite Company and the City of Calgary more particularly.

The Theatres Bill was amended to permit the adoption of the British and Australian system of using the word "universal" to describe films of general family use. Mr. McGillivray moved the striking out of several lines in one of the clauses in Mrs. Parlbys bill dealing with Domestic Relations. This was where a new principle was introduced, granting the payment of a "lump sum of money or the transfer, incumbrance or settlement of the whole or any part of the husband's property" if necessary in lieu of payment.

The words were struck out.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT AMENDMENTS

The Workmen's Compensation Act was amended in some particulars. Assessments under the new amendments for the objects specified in the bill won't exceed \$17,000 per year in one case and \$7,000 in the other. The Companies Act, designed principally to safeguard the rights of minorities passed.

COMMITTEE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

In moving the appointment of a committee of fifteen members, representing employers, employees and members of the Legislative Assembly, to investigate and make recommendations to the next session of the Assembly on the whole matter of the Workmen's Compensation Act, Premier Brownlee pointed out that this act was one of the pieces of legislation

which gave rise to yearly amendments. The view of the workers was that it was progressive legislation, and an act which would have to change with changing conditions. Because of the recurring need for amendments he said the Government was anxious to have a representative committee appointed to review the entire question and put this matter in shape to be dealt with from time to time. He outlined what had been done in Manitoba, in that regard. Communication with the Government of Manitoba had furnished the information that the use of such a committee had worked out all right there, resulting in a condition of tranquility ever since the adoption of that method. The committee would make a canvass of the entire field, the question of ways and means of reducing the possibility of accident, the matter of disputes over medical decisions, and kindred matters.

A. A. McGillivray, Calgary, wanted the scope of the inquiry to include questions of non-negligence, cases of accidents in the running trades and the bringing of these sections within the purview of the investigation, to which the Premier answered that that was the intention of the Government. The resolution carried.

Coming to the resolution of Joseph T. Shaw, Bow Valley, O. L. McPherson resumed the debate, saying that on account of the agreement to compromise he had no intention of prolonging the debate.

Premier Brownlee dealt with the question of the coming conference and the suggestions of the various leaders. Owing to lack of official intimation of the conference, suggestions could only be tentative in any case. The suggestion of the Conservative leader that the clause dealing with the constitution be struck out was not feasible, as if the conference were called for that purpose as intimated in the press it would be dealt with inevitably. One thing which would be kept in mind would be to see that no agreement would be made whereby the constitution would ever be amended without the consent of the Province as a contracting party.

UNEMPLOYMENT PROPER SUBJECT FOR CONSIDERATION

The question of unemployment was a proper subject for consideration, as was the reallocation of the field of taxation. With regard to Senate reform there was no mandate in the resolution as to what method should be adopted. The Dominion might take the stand that this was not a proper subject for discussion. The matter of railways, again, was more or less a Provincial matter, and if each Province introduced its own pet schemes the agenda would be sufficiently large to keep them in conference for a long time. However, the Premier was of the opinion that the Dominion should take more responsibility with regard to the northern railways.

The principle of the old age pension measure was an acceptable one, but the matter of the Hudson's Bay land grant was not so well chosen, as the Premier contended that what had been done had been validly done, and the only thing which might be achieved would be to provide for reference to the Province in the case of future grants being contemplated.

THE QUESTION OF IMMIGRATION

The question of immigration was one in which the Province was interested, and while it was true that immigration had been to date a purely Dominion matter,

the Provinces had a perfect right to be in a position to say when immigrants should be admitted and when excluded. The Premier had letters from Drumheller pointing out that immigrants from Central Europe who had been encouraged here by certain agencies had been cast on the municipality. Towns and cities had to have some protection against unnecessary unemployment problems. He would favor the working out of some kind of joint immigration board.

All were agreed on a National coal policy being discussed, and the subject of peaceful picketing was also valid. Dealing with Mr. McGillivray's amendments, the Premier said his first suggestion being of purely local nature might not be patiently listened to, but the clearing up of the water power situation was permissible, as other Provinces were interested as well as Alberta. Manitoba and B.C. had their power projects as well. The solution of labor disputes by conference between employers, employees and the different Governments was practical, he thought, and he would be pleased to sit in at the conference to discuss this subject. With regard to the subsidies, there were really only a few which would be affected by upward revision, and only one would have any bearing on the natural resources. With reference to the latter, anything done would have to be done without prejudice, and the Premier stated the great stumbling block in the past to their return to have been the Eastern Provinces. It had been pointed out repeatedly that it was absolutely impossible ever to secure the return of the natural resources so long as the three Western Provinces were forced to sit in conference with the Eastern Provinces on the question. To inject this question into a Dominion-wide conference would be to hazard the ultimate settlement.

Mr. McGillivray interjected the statement that he rejoiced to know the Government had put the stamp of its approval on Conservative suggestions for the first time during the session, and the Premier concluded by saying that the drouth area was already the subject of collaboration between the Federal and Provincial Governments, but the railway problem was purely local.

"DOLE" MISLEADING TERM FOR INSURANCE

C. L. Gibbs, Edmonton, (Labor), said the Conservative leader had acted on quite a gratuitous assumption when he suggested that Labor was not behind the demand for the enactment of unemployment insurance. Not only was Labor solidly behind the demand, but they resented very deeply the application of the word "dole" to describe this legitimate form of social legislation. This word had been invented by the partisan press to depreciate the endeavors of Labor in the desire for better conditions. Coming to the Hudson's Bay land grant, Mr. Gibbs said the recent grant should in no way be considered the same as the big grant issued at the time of the deed of surrender. It was significant, he said, amid the smiles of members, that the gentleman who made the recent grant bore the same name as the gentleman who made the original grant away back in the dim past—he referred to the Hon. Chas. Stewart. The original grant had been, in lieu of the company's claim on the territory, one-twentieth of all fertile land set out for settlement, and the company had claimed that National Parks and Indian Reserves had come within the scope of the original grant, and the Minister had conceded this without a struggle.

"The present Charles Stewart, like his predecessor, had—"

Mr. Hoadley—"Lost his head."

Mr. Gibbs—"Perhaps"—at any rate he should have fought to the last ultimate ditch, and the people of Alberta must feel that he had no right to give away so much valuable land in the Province to this company. There was another aspect to this. The immigration policies would be largely stimulated by the desire of this company to unload these fertile acres on the immigrant, and the Labor member feared that no good would result from the housing of the Alberta immigration office under Mr. Greenfield in the Hudson's Bay Company premises in London.

SHAW CLOSES THE DEBATE

After Alderman Parkyn had given a dissertation on the value of precedent, the necessity for social legislation, undernourishment of children, the pension house for worn-out politicians, and the needs of a progressive young country, Capt. Shaw closed the debate. In his opinion the discussion had been of the highest level, and he offered no apology for the introduction of the resolution. He would have been better satisfied if the conference could have been called in Alberta, so that the East could have seen for themselves at first hand what Alberta was like.

The thing which Mr. Shaw did not like was the suggestions of Labor with regard to the old age pensions and the Hudson's Bay Co. The former as it was worded, would only result in the Dominion saying: "We have given you a measure of old age pensions but you have not taken advantage of it. Why discuss this matter further until you have put what is now on the statute books into operation."

The Liberal leader harked back in Canadian history to the original grant of land to the Bay, remarking that all the land included in that agreement had not yet been handed over. The Dominion was of necessity bound to live up to its obligations, and he did not like the suggestion that the grant was just a gigantic steal. The company had received only one acre for every four granted. Mr. Shaw agreed with Labor that the reinstatement of peaceful picketing should be discussed, going into detail to prove that this had been quite legitimate in Canadian law, and was so now in England. After the questions of the constitution, the use of the word "necessity" in asking for social legislation, and the final touch on the Senate, the Liberal leader adjourned the debate, thus shelving the question.

THE DISCUSSION ON CADET TRAINING

On Donald Cameron, Innisfail, reporting to the Assembly that the agricultural committee had considered the matter of cadet training in schools, and presented a motion as a basis of discussion, Fred White, Calgary, proceeded to speak to the resolution.

Mr. White considered the Breton amendment, which was on the order paper, as most unusual, prefixing as well as adding words to the original motion. The subject matter was very misleading, suggesting as it did that the remedy for those opposed to cadet training lay in the fact that school boards were elective bodies. That provided no remedy whatever, as only a portion of the board was retired each year.

To Mr. White's mind, the issue was this, that the Dominion had thought fit to place educational matters in the hands

of the Province, and the Department had thought fit to put physical training on the curriculum. Why, then, had the Militia Department at Ottawa been permitted to claim the physical training period for the purpose of carrying on cadet work? Labor was not pressing for anything else in the resolution than for the elimination of cadet training during hours given through the curriculum to other subjects.

PHYSICAL TRAINING MORE BENEFICIAL

There had been no agreement between the Militia Department and the Department of Education, said Mr. White, to which Mr. Baker, Minister of Education, said that although he had made that statement in committee he had been informed by Major Miller that there was an agreement. Mr. White quoted authorities to show that physical training was much more beneficial to the growing boy than the other, and said it was not the purpose of the resolution to deter those parents who wished their children to have cadet training from taking advantage of the Strathcona Trust and carrying on this work after school hours. He was emphatic that what parents who objected to cadet training wanted was simply that the 80 minutes now on the curriculum should be devoted entirely to that form of training. The Provincial Department of Education should be supreme, independent of interference from the Militia Department, and parents should not be compelled to vote themselves out of something which had really no right to be there at all.

SHOULD BE FREE FROM MILITIA DEPARTMENT

Hon. Irene Parlby, Minister Without Portfolio, saw no difference in resolution and amendment, unless it were in the choice of words. To her the question of Provincial rights was a big issue, and it was not fitting that training of any kind under direction of the Militia Department should be injected into the Provincial system. She went into detail with regard to the findings of eminent people as to the relative value of physical training and training of a military type. The consensus of opinion was in favor of the former.

There was no quarrel with military training in this resolution; it was not even inferred that its abolition was aimed at. No one in that assembly could stand up and say we had seen the last war. The only thing that was suggested was that the school was not the place for this work. In the United States it had become compulsory in colleges to have cadet corps, and a great wave of public opinion was now sweeping that country in the effort to rid themselves of that compulsion.

But Mrs. Parlby had a deeper reason than all these, and that was the psychological effect on the child. Cadet training did not necessarily give a military point of view. What it did do was to make the child think that war was inevitable, that war was the correct manner of settling disputes, and that sooner or later he would be called to bear arms. Of what value would a league of nations or any other effort to abolish war ever become so long as there was not instilled in the rising generation a new attitude of mind. This, and this alone, would prepare the way for true peace endeavors. Mrs. Parlby quoted from the writings of an eminent British Officer, who was no ultra-pacifist, to show that it was noticeable that heavy expenditures were

being made by the nations in the endeavor to furnish more deadly weapons. Scientists were preparing more and more their plans for human destruction, and this officer of high rank stated that if civilization were to be saved at all it would be necessary to create a new psychology, teaching the youth that war can be abolished, that other methods of settling disputes are available. Mrs. Parlby thought, therefore, that this was the crux of the entire question, and for that reason, she felt bound to vote for the resolution and against the amendment.

A. A. McGillivray, Calgary, (Conservative) said he had no apprehension whatever that cadet training was productive of evil, and he thought the amendment of Mr. Breton's quite reasonable, and would support it.

PARKYN MAKES ANIT-MILITARIST SPEECH

R. H. Parkyn, Calgary (Labor) took the Assembly on a tour of examination of authorities past and present in an anti-war speech that annoyed the weary members striving to finish in a few hours the business of the session. Mr. Parkyn acted in good faith, being swayed by his enthusiasm for an idealistic age, but apparently he got off on the wrong foot, for from that moment the atmosphere changed, and the reaction could be felt almost instantly.

Joseph T. Shaw, Bow Valley, said that his own personal viewpoint was that he was absolutely opposed to cadet training in the schools. One of the things to be considered was the viewpoint of the other fellow. So far as he could see there were some parents and others who desired to retain that form of training, and for that reason it should have a definite place in the school; he was going to vote for the amendment.

Premier Brownlee supported the amendment. He was more concerned about the kind of training the child received in the home than he was about the mild form of cadet training in the schools of the Province. All parents were more or less guilty of providing warlike toys and other militaristic accoutrements which went very much further to create the military psychology than did the other.

The vote being taken it was found that the amendment carried. The Government front line divided, Mrs. Parlby, George Hoadley and R. G. Reid voting against the amendment. The vote was close, being 26 for the amendment and 22 against. After this the Labor member from Edmonton castigated the U.F.A. members severely in his own inimical manner, and finally the whole question was shelved for the year by Andrew Smeaton, Lethbridge, moving the adjournment of the debate.

PIBROCH LOCAL ORGANIZED

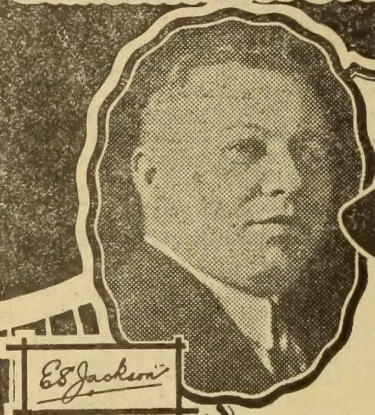
Pibroch Local was organized in March by H. Critchlow and C. Antonson. C. T. Gamble and Thos. W. Garde were elected president and secretary respectively.

The annual Feeders' Day of the Department of Animal Husbandry, University of Alberta, will be held on Saturday, April 9th, the last day of the Edmonton Spring Show, commencing at 10 a.m. Feeders' Day is planned for the purpose of reviewing and discussing the results of the experiments in feeding beef and dairy cattle, sheep and swine, carried on by the University during the past year.

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